

and they feel strongly about this because this is equipment which was purchased by their local property tax funds, and this equipment was to be moved to another location. Let me read the amendment as I have had it drafted. "It is the intent of the Legislature that the department of Social Services continue operation of all local offices at the staffing levels and office hours as existed on January 1, 1986." Now I don't know if that is the proper language and I will admit that the Legislature should not have to do this sort of thing, that the Department involved should take a realistic look at these problems, but we need those services in many locations across the state, and the question arises, how far are we going to go? Are we going to provide these services to rural Nebraska? What is the intent of the Legislature to curtail these services in the name of efficiency? Certainly I will admit that it is more efficient to have fewer offices staffed with more people so that the people served have to travel long distances rather than incur office expenses in many locations. However, the sparsity of the population means that that puts a burden on the local people rather than on state resources. Now in all probability, the ultimate in efficiency would be to have one office here in Lincoln, and I don't know how far we are to go in this situation. But the intensity of feeling out there is very great that these services are not being offered. It is discouraging the people from applying for them at a time when these services are most needed by many people. It is a real problem out there. I know the Legislature has limited ability and limited money to provide these services. However, these people are entitled to those services on the same basis that everyone else is in a more populous area. It is true, it is going to cost more to service these people. However, they certainly deserve those services on a convenient basis. You can, in fact, discourage people from applying for these services if you are going to make it difficult. Now in the interest of time, in the interest of the fact that this state has difficulty in dictating to a state agency exactly how this should be handled, I would appeal to the Department of Social Services to be more realistic in looking at this problem, and I would also in the same breath ask that the motion be withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: According to the rules just to recite it, a Senator may withdraw his motion as long as it has not been modified. Thank you. Motion is withdrawn. Now what else, Mr. Clerk? Matters for the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, if I might, just a couple of items to