

tremendous oversight. These are not individuals you would want out on the streets. These are the kids that pour the Drano down other kids, these are the kids that do horrible things to other kids. They are the kind of individuals we do not want out among the public, but they are adolescents and they are in a situation where they need to have a particular kind of care. They are so disruptive that in the end you cannot allow in good conscience, these individuals back out in society and so the plan that I have seen from DPI would be to allow those individuals to be sent over to the Department of Social Services, Corrections and elsewhere, in fact, not really saving the state any money, but in fact, cost shifting to other agencies, Corrections, DSS and others. So in the end I'm not sure that you really have the savings that you're talking about here. You don't save when you cut out programs like that. You don't save when you don't recognize the special needs of the mentally retarded and the mentally ill and the alcoholism problems that people suffer in this state. We've had a chance to look at DPI with a visit to the institutions and we've had a chance, I'm sure many of you have visited the local workshops that the mental retardation agencies sponsor. I think you would agree with me that it is an impressive effort on the part of the State of Nebraska to care for these people. We have long been recognized for our outstanding program. This cut does not only include the institutions and the additional cut for those important services they provide, but it also cuts the aid programs that go back to the regions, the mental retardation regions, mental health regions and again, the alcoholism programs.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: We did cut these agencies and these programs previously and we found a great concern among the advocates for the mentally retarded and mentally ill and alcoholism. We're very upset with the situation. If you remember with Senator Nelson, she had the bill to increase the liquor tax and we were to put money in addition to what we had previously done for these people because of the great need that they had and we denied them that additional money. We did not give it to them. In fact, we cut back, we cut their aid programs and cut the services last May and now we're talking about not only a 1.5 percent cut which would be hard enough, but the committee is recommending further cuts, almost to 3 percent as other agencies. I think DPI is