

neutral. They do not receive any cuts really because they were increased 2 percent and now we reduced it by 2 percent. Now what will the statewide impact of 1 1/2 percent cut of \$312,568 have? It will cut one four-person group home. It will cut back on behavior specialists who help staff deal with problem behaviors and I am an individual who serves on the Ethics Committee as voluntary and I can assure you that we have individuals who do have problems and we are able to cope with them and correct them, but it does take some doing. And I can assure you that the staff has been very, very cooperative and helpful. There are dedicated people that are working in this particular area and want to make it work and any advice that we give them, they really use it. We are going to cut back on speech therapy. We will cut back on residential staff and here is where there is some danger. You cut back on residential staff and then you do not have the supervision which is required of these people which is very serious. Now I have received many letters from people, who realize that I am interested in this program, that are real concerned because they do have people on the waiting list and they do want to be served. And I can assure you that this will not make any difference to my personal life. My boy is already working and he is earning his way and he is independent. So, personally, it doesn't do any difference to me but I would like to see many of our other people who are in need of this service and are able to work should be back and working. Now I am also willing to make some cuts, as you are all aware that I suggested that you cut the Regional Center here in Lincoln, the Regional Center Comprehensive Care Unit, in other words. And this was cut and the patients are...some of them came into the community service and others went to Beatrice but you were able to save some dollars. I think this is important. They need to have learning skills. It is important and the more we take away from them, the more difficult it is going to be for us in the future. Now I would like to relate to you an experience I had in Washington, D.C. when I was there this last winter for the farmers that wanted to get some help from the President and from the Congress. I was walking in front of the hotel and on the street was a mentally retarded person, with his pants wide open, begging. Now Washington does not have a program. You would not find that here in Nebraska and I don't want that to happen. But these are the kind of things that will happen if we do not take care and watch. Now there are many states that are looking to us for examples and we talk about our state being a black spot of