

to be brought out to the body. I know that we have concerns in different geographical areas. But simply what happened in Region II, which is North Platte primarily, and Region III, which is central Nebraska area, Adams County, Hall County, Greeley, in that particular area, Kearney, last year some of those counties were up to some of them the very limit, and some of them, because of the \$1.50 corn or the \$2.00 wheat, just simply did not have the money. We are going to have to address, at some time or other, the matching fund money. For mental retardation the matching fund is 25 percent, or makes \$1.00 for \$3.00. Alcohol/drug abuse is one in seven. I think that we will have to work towards changing that matching money. What happened simply is Omaha and Lincoln, and I'm not here to pick on Omaha and Lincoln, I'm just calling your attention to the inequities in this, had matching money. So, what happened in our region is I recalled it as \$93,000 by Dale Johnson, head of DPI, the figure was \$83,539 that they simply could not use last year because they didn't have the matching money. In Dale's...before the Appropriations Committee the other day this is what he says how this money would be distributed, the department would implement the \$150,000 reduction by first reducing the new and expanded aid by the amount returned, unmatched by Region II and III, or \$83,539. The remainder, 66,461, would come from undeveloped funds by reducing the Region V allocation by 2,564, and Region VI by 63,000. That tells you the problem. Next year's budget will be based on this reduction. So, it is a permanent reduction. I'm not here to pick on Region VI. They are fortunate that their county has the money available, which is Omaha, for this match. I think because they didn't get in the redistribution last year as big a percentage, they tried to equalize this last year. Their reduction is .06. I just simply want to point out that there is an inequity and that we have just as big a problem, or bigger problems outstate as we do in Omaha. I would like to have that recognized. I do not have an amendment. I want to be fair with this, and I hate to see any reductions. As you know, I worked very hard for that alcohol tax and this money, and this is where this is coming from. I think that we took in about 2.5 million on that, and we are getting 1.3 million back. And I understand all of that and the rest of you do. I hope for all the support we get, but I'm going to be realistic about it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to this amendment. I have heard so much