

carry over some of the concern we had when we restored the cut in the nursing program to this area. There are people who are reluctant and remember, this is in the rural area, not mine. So there is nothing I am going to benefit from this at all and I want to make that crystal clear. But I am able to understand some of the difficulties that people in those areas are having because not only do I talk to a lot of them, I get letters from them and phone calls and all I can do sometimes is make a referral. And if there is no place to which to refer them, there is a lot more work that I'm going to have to do and I will do it, but I would rather not have to. There is a Social Services Department and since the term services is connected with the name, that means that government has something that it is to make available to the people and it should be made available to the people where they are and where they have the need. That was the rationale for the nursing school. People are reluctant to contact government when they haven't had a lot of that contact and some who haven't had to come with their hands stuck out, so to speak, find great difficulty in doing that. So maybe the only stone left needed to drop in their bucket to make it too heavy to carry is to require the traveling of some distance. Maybe going to an area that is unfamiliar, dealing with people that they don't know could be a difficult thing to add to the problem of needing assistance in the first place. The amount is not astronomical in terms of the overall budget. Again, it's one of those types of things which, if we cut, can cause a lot of hurt and difficulty to people without helping the state's financial situation at all. And I know we've had it said in different ways on the floor that we're parceling out misery but there are some areas where I'd rather not see it happen. Not everybody who needs the assistance that Social Services offers is a no good lazy bum who doesn't want to work. There are children, there are ill people, there are ignorant people who have no idea what is happening to them or why. They need help and they are reluctant to seek it in the first place. So if the state has decided that these services are going to be made available, there should be no artificial impediments placed in the way of people who need to avail themselves of those services. If we restore this cut, it is not going to harm the budgeting process one whit. If we take away the cut, that means give the money back, those offices can do the job or attempt to do the job that we are indicating they should do. The name of this agency was changed from Welfare Department because of the stigma attached to that term. Why are we going to change the name, supposedly for the purpose of making people not feel that they are doing something wrong by