

Morehead, your light went off. Do you wish to waive on the amendment? Thank you. Senator Higgins, please, on the Moore amendment.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Hannibal seems to be knowledgeable about this. Would Senator Hannibal yield to a question, please. Senator Hannibal, of these positions that we are considering eliminating, are any of them actual caseworkers, people that go out and interview those, or people that sit in the office and interview those people who are applying for social assistance?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Yes, I think some of them are. We are talking about 33 field people, however, of those 33 there are some support people, clerical and support people as well. I do not know what number of actual caseworkers versus clerical support people are involved, but there is...there are probably some of those 33...where there are 14 in the rural area, there are probably some of those 14 that are. I don't know.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So, when we talk about central administration, we are not just talking about the...which I am in agreement to get rid of the paper pushers, even though some of them might be necessary to help process things. But if we are actually getting away...if we are doing away with jobs, those that have to be there in order to process the claims or to process the applications, then in Omaha I have seen people wait, who had no groceries on the table, wait 45 to 60 days to get an answer if they were going to get any assistance and be told, here are some food stamps and the food stamps will keep them for about three or four days and then they are told, well, go to the food pantry. And that's what concerns me is if we are going to do away with those people that are going to help process the applications, that is really going to hurt the people that need it the most. If, on the other hand, we are going to do away with the bureaucrats, the ones that just fill out the forms, stamp them and send them on to the next one that is going to do the same, then I'm in complete agreement with that. But I really would like to know how many of those, as I would say, in the trenches, are we eliminating, those that really do the service to the clients? Would you know?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: I...Senator Higgins, I appreciate your question and I honestly don't know. We are talking about, for example, of these...we are talking about 33 field jobs, 14 administrative jobs, so we are talking about 47 jobs,