

are cleanup amendments. The amendments, they do make a few changes to the substance of the bill but the changes are very modest. I think that Senator Haberman and Senator Kahle and others have really addressed themselves to the bill as opposed to the amendments. Now the amendments are pretty straightforward and I would hope that the body would put the amendments on and then we will sit down and we will discuss the bill. One fact that you might want to keep in mind, how many Nebraskans do you think receive some form of social security? A quarter of a million. 250,000 Nebraskans receive either supplemental security income or social security and how many offices in Nebraska do you think exist for the administration of social security. Are there 87 offices as there are for the welfare programs? We have 93 counties but a few counties have gone together and have a multicounty office. Are there 87 social security offices? No, there are 11, 11 social security offices in the State of Nebraska that can administer a caseload for a quarter of a million Nebraskans. You get a few complaints about social security. You do get some complaints about that but you don't get near the complaints about them that you get in the welfare context. Now again, the amendments are very straightforward. They merely set back the operative date of the medicaid bailout by one year simply because we are taking the bill up this year as opposed to taking it up last year. It makes certain that the general assistance function becomes a state function as well and they do give the state in effect the authority to establish whatever regional offices it needs to establish, and if it has to, to close county offices. Iowa now operates with eight regions. That passed this last legislative session in Iowa at a savings according to the Legislature of \$3 million. Are we going to become efficient or are we going to continue to operate an archaic mechanism? I would move the amendments.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I would like to make a couple of remarks here. Senator Haberman. I guess I can't get his attention...

SENATOR CLARK: If you can hear something, you are better off than I am.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Haberman. Well, I just blew a minute so I will forget that.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman, she would like to ask you a question.