

from a judge in Hastings about the actions of the Department of Social Services. I don't know who to blame for this, and that is what is hard about it. You talk to someone at the top...first you start at the local level, with the people at the local level, and you try to talk to the local office, you can't get anything there because you're supposed to talk to the regional office. Talk to the regional office, they end up bringing in the state. The state sends someone out, you talk to them, nothing happens, nothing changes. I've been working on a case with them on another issue with the Mary Lanning Hospital because it's so important that we have the intermediate kind of care that they are talking about here with the transition from children from psychiatric, drug kinds of care, be transitioned out into the community. We want very badly...they tell me they want very badly for us to establish such a home at that location in central Nebraska, and yet it took a year of working on the contract, basically, I might even be wrong on that, it's probably longer, with no results, until I finally got involved, we sat down together. Supposedly, they've been trying to talk this out for months since that time, and now I've recently gotten another letter and they're back to square one again. It seems as though there is somewhere in one of these articles that I was looking at here, I guess it's a letter that I have from a family who are so upset about the way their child was handled. When they asked for help, basically, what they said was instead of showing us help lines they drew battle lines, and they took over this child's placement because the parents had no recourse, and against the wishes of many people who are also experts, not just the department has an expert status, you know, in these kinds of affairs. They overruled and did what they thought was right, which was totally, in the eyes of all these other people, wrong. Now where do we...how do we decide who is right and who is wrong here? I guess we shouldn't spend as much time worrying about which of these departments has control, as over why can't we resolve this issue on behalf of our young people. What has happened in our society and in our state, because I'm sure it's not just true of Nebraska. Well, we have a system which is set up for the benefit of people and which does everything except benefit people in the end, at a tremendous cost to all of us and to their lives. I can't say that I think this bill is perfect, but at least probably I'd say that we're making an effort to look at this whole issue, and it's time we looked at this issue. I think that the Department of Social Services has now come out with alternative proposals to it, from what I understand here, you know, maybe that should be looked at. It's unfortunate that