

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...as there are in areas such as Scottsbluff, or North Platte, or Beatrice, or Omaha, or Lincoln. You know if we're trying to get the education of the state to rural Nebraska, taking Senator Scofield's idea, we should go ahead and put the University at Kearney in rural areas. We should have branch offices. And that's not maybe a bad idea. We call that outreach. But the main focuses are in the center where the service can be gathered together. We had fun yesterday as a body. It's time to get serious as a body today on 813, on this amendment. It's a time to reconsider the Scofield amendment. It's a time to put the offices where they need to be and have a straight up vote, whether we want the concept or not.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I ask the body to vote for reconsideration so we can at least have the options available, and we need to move on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please, followed by Senator Schellpeper and Senator Nelson.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I should point out to you that Senator Hannibal suggested that while you might have offered opposition, maybe it wouldn't have been major opposition. (Laughter.) And I agree. (Laughter.) And, Senator Byars, I apologize for taking your office yesterday while you were off doing extremely good things. You were in the right place and doing what you should have been doing. But that doesn't change the fact that I was, in fact, dead serious about the change that I proposed, and I think if you're going to do field offices that the locations that you adopted yesterday make a darn sight more sense than the sites that were selected. Now let me tell you how I picked those sites. I started looking at where would you put offices, if you were going to try to help rural communities get some action as to services. I looked where we already have offices out there that are either DED offices, or Nebraska Business Development Center offices, or some other higher educational entity, or active chambers of commerce, or active economic developers. And you know what most of the state in the larger communities, again as Senator Schellpeper and others pointed out yesterday, the larger communities are able to do a lot, and they