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LB 813

better idea than field offices in the...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...proposal that he put forward. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Yes. Senator Schellpeper, please, followed by Senator Nelson, then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I also rise to support the reconsideration. I think if Senator Scofield wants to put the agencies in towns under 5,000 I have no problem with that whatsoever. But to dictate what towns they should be in, I think that's going just a little bit too far. Another thing is if you look at the map, Ainsworth, Ord, Red Cloud are the short way across Nebraska, not the long way across Nebraska. I think we need to let the agency dictate where they want these offices, where they will do the most good rather than try to say they will be in this town, they will be in that certain town. So I think if we will just put them in maybe towns under 5,000, but just don't dictate what towns they should be in. So I think we should reconsider this amendment. And, if we want to come back and say that they will be under towns of 5,000, I would sure support that. But right now I think that this amendment should be reconsidered. Thank you. And Senator Bernard-Stevens wants a little bit of my time.

PRESIDENT: You have four minutes left.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I'm just going to take a minute. Senator Scofield raises some valid points. Again, we have to focus on the issue at hand. The issue at hand is, do we want to have people in the greater part of Nebraska, some would say greater than part of Nebraska, do we want to have the people in those areas be able to have a place to go to, if they need help, rather than going all the way to Lincoln? That is one question we need to ask. And I think the answer to that is yes. Question number two, what is better, what do we need to do in regards to coordinating all the other efforts going on out there? Personally, I believe that that will be one of the major roles of the DED field offices. In fact, I would point out to say that the reason there are so many separate entities striving out there to do so, and we need the coordination, is because the field offices never really got underway well, they were then withdrawn and the areas have had to do things on their own. I