

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 2112 of the Legislative Journal.) 27 ayes, 12 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion prevails and we will reconsider.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Scofield's amendment is now pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, I understand that you probably did this only because you felt like Senator Bernard-Stevens made a reasonable argument...

PRESIDENT: The call is raised.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...that he should have a chance to represent his point of view. I know he felt like he got cut off at lunch yesterday. But the real issue to me here seems to be two. One is, should we dictate where these offices are? I think there is another issue, too, and that is, are we even going to do field offices? And I would reiterate once again that I think the money proposed for this makes a lot better sense to put it where Senator Baack proposed putting it yesterday. But I think with the other issue here is, is what kind of services should DED provide to rural Nebraska? And I don't think there is any way in the world you can justify letting this go on, putting these offices in the big communities, they've all got services. If you really want to help rural Nebraska then you have to be sensitive to miles, you have to be sensitive to those areas that aren't getting any service. And the three towns that I proposed were not pulled out of the air. Those communities were proposed because they really don't have any services. I think they're pretty representative of little towns all over the state. And, while it is out of the ordinary probably for us to pick sites like that, I think there is enough need here to raise awareness about rural Nebraska, what is rural Nebraska, how do you serve rural Nebraska, and how do you effectively use resources, that we should discuss this very, very seriously. It occurs to me again that the placement of those offices is not only inappropriate, because of the size of the community and the resources they already have, but in terms of mileage. If you take a look at the state I once again...and the distances people are going to have to travel to serve, Denny Byars is a nice guy,