

he ought to have an office in Beatrice, but the fact of the matter is Beatrice is, what 55 miles from Lincoln, Senator Byars, something like that? And when Senator Smith applies for that job in North Platte, she's going to have to drive four hours to come up and help Chadron. It's only three hours if she goes and helps that depressed railroad town of Alliance, for instance. And I agree with Senator Bernard-Stevens, we ought to do something for these depressed railroad towns of North Platte and Alliance and Chadron is about to be one, too. But I don't think we can make these decisions emotionally, and we shouldn't make them on size, I think, alone. But you ought to place them where there isn't any services. If you're really serious about serving rural Nebraska, you ought to offices out there where there are no services, where that person has to become sensitized to rural Nebraska. There is a remarkable difference in the character of the towns just in my district, that range all the way from clear up to 10,000 down to little communities of about 1,000. There is a lot of difference between the character of those towns. Then, if you add the problems of having to drive from town to town, you're going to have a tough job doing your missionary work. I don't think this is a well thought out proposal. I think rural Nebraska deserves better than what this proposal offers them. I think it deserves better than the whole proposal, the whole package that was brought this year, frankly. And I take some responsibility, as a rural senator, to make sure that rural areas get served well. And I'm not at all happy with the level of service we're delivering in rural Nebraska. So I think you ought to stick with my amendment, and then you probably ought to reject the whole concept of field offices and we ought to put all of that money into Senator Baack's proposal on 639, because then and only then are you going to empower communities to help themselves. Otherwise, as Senator Baack said yesterday, you're going to send a bunch of bureaucrats from Lincoln out there that may spend maybe at the outside two years, long enough to... Mr. President, could I have a little help here.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) You certainly may, it's entirely too loud and we must hold it down so that we can hear the speakers.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: They're crowding themselves now, and I don't know, we're just a little noisy this morning. So we would really appreciate it, if you'd hold it down. Thank you.