

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes, Mr. President, I would rise once again to ask you to stand by a decision that you made yesterday that I think is the right decision, and that was my amendment to the Bernard-Stevens amendment which dictated where these three offices will go, and, once again, they go in Ainsworth, they go in Ord, they go in Red Cloud. That is the three towns in this state in the middle that I could find that are centrally enough located that you really reach some areas that don't get any service at all. Let me hasten to point out that I don't live within even 200 miles of any of those towns, so I don't have any vested interest one way or the other other than the fact that I am trying to do what I can, if we are going to do offices in rural Nebraska, to put them where they might make some sense. Let me rebut one point that Senator Byars made if he has not looked at his map where these proposed offices would go. Senator Byars, centrally located, come on, North Platte is on the eastern edge of the western half of the state, the western one-half of the state. It is four and a half hours from North Platte to where I live, and that person is supposed to come help me out. It is two hours...I mean it is 200 miles to...it is probably closer to 200 miles to Scottsbluff, I don't know exactly. It has got to be very close to 200 miles. Central location, it is not. You could have picked anywhere and been better off. If you really wanted to put one out there, I would suggest Oshkosh maybe would have hit about the middle there, and they certainly could use a high-paid person in Oshkosh, for pete's sake, if you wanted to do economic development. Again, I would reiterate, Kearney? Kearney does a wonderful job through Kearney State's Nebraska Business Development Center. Why in the world would they need any more help? Put that office somewhere where it makes sense. That is why I picked Red Cloud. Northeast Nebraska isn't exactly a center of wealth and good fortune either, but Norfolk is probably the most up and coming community up there, from what I hear. So why not give a little help out there in the middle of the Sandhills where Howard Lamb has all those poor little towns that could use some help. That is why Ainsworth was picked. Beatrice is a pretty up and coming place. I have been down there and I know that we have...actually your town and my town, Alliance and Beatrice, have a lot of things in common, and, nevertheless, I think it makes a lot more sense to put some services farther away from Lincoln, because with all due respect to Beatrice, you could be in Beatrice in an hour, Senator Byars. Senator Baack said why don't we do this with an 800 number. You are right, Senator