

PRESIDENT: Thank you, sir. May I introduce a guest, please, of Senator Wehling under the south balcony. We have Mr. Clint Morrison who is from the Gering/Scottsbluff area and serves on the County Board of Commissioners out there. Would you please welcome him to the Legislature. Thank you, Mr. Morrison. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend Senator Wesely's amendment. (See page 571 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment is a very easy amendment. It is on line 14 of the Wesely amendment, AM2259. It simply would change the word "consider", strike that, and insert the new word "include". So, in essence, it would say, "In establishing the standards for such caseloads, the director shall include the workload factors...", rather than consider. Mr. President, the concern that I have, and first of all, I appreciate Senator Wesely in coming back with this amendment in trying to deal with some of the concerns that we had out in the western part of the state. One of the difficulties I had in working with Social Services is when we talked about windshield time and we talked about the distance and the geographic areas that the response would come back saying, well, we have considered those, we have looked at those, we evaluated that, and this is the way that we have decided to do it. I don't want to have just a consideration so they can keep the status quo, and keep what they have, and have them be able to say, yeah, we considered it but we rejected it immediately. I want them to include, and so when they, on the first part of the amendment, in each of the even-numbered years when they do provide a report to the Legislature and Governor outlining the caseloads and the factors considered, those factors will include such areas as geographic responsibilities, office location, travel requirements, time zones, and so on, and that is the nature of the amendment, and I urge its adoption.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Kristensen, please.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I, too, have looked through the...particularly, the Wesely amendments and find those to be something that we had some concerns about, the number of workers, and I think I gave an