

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...I have no intention of just throwing more money at this problem. It seems to me that...well, one of the reasons I got interested in this area was I looked at the child abuse statistics and what was being requested by agencies to fight that. There isn't any way that we can just keep throwing money at these programs. What we do has to produce results. And we don't have anything in there right now that has the kind of evaluation component that we envision here to see if we're getting our money's worth. The other purpose of this would also be to identify what funds are out there now being spent that might possibly be reallocated that would more effectively address the problems that you and I are both concerned about.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, thank you, Senator. I was luke warm about the project, I'm still not committed yet totally. But in view of your last explanation, I think that you do have a very legitimate objective, because there is undoubtedly a substantial amount of money which is being expended today which apparently is not accomplishing the goal which this Legislature, and I'm sure which the Governor and other agencies would like to see accomplished.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And so maybe we can accomplish some good. I'm going to go along with you at least for a while, Senator. Thank you very much for your explanation.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, would you like to close?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes, I would, because Senator Schmit has touched on a topic near and dear to my heart and it's been the bottom line driving this from day one. That is when we started looking at children and family services in Nebraska we discovered tremendous fragmentation of services. Much of the money that came into those is driven by virtue of what federal source it comes from, some of it will go to one agency, some of it will go to another. There has never seemed to me to be sufficient communication and collaboration among agencies. And that is one of the reasons why we've put into place this kind of mechanism that requires that agencies sign off on this, so that they are in fact strongly encouraged to communicate with each