

more familiar with Region IV than I am of some of the other regions, but I don't believe that Region IV has been getting their fair share of the pot. It seems to me when I analyze these figures that we come up a little short and I have never been able to find out why. I know that maybe they pay higher, little higher wages in Lincoln and Omaha than they do up in northeast Nebraska, but even when you consider that, it seems like we come up on the short end of it. But I do think we need a little more financial help and I'm glad that Senator Wesely said there is going to be a study done on it this summer and I think we certainly need to have an in depth study because, my goodness, there is just a lot of things that I can't figure out. But I think here we must remember that we want to help those that are not as fortunate as we are, because I have been through the workshops. I have been through some of the residential homes and they do a terrific job. But the waiting list keeps growing. I think two years ago when we said we would like to have those waiting lists reduced, they haven't been reduced. In fact, there is more now on the waiting lists than there were many years ago. If I have any time left, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give it to Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER BARRETT: About two and a half minutes, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: (Microphone not on) and I do appreciate this opportunity to speak. I'm not going to be here for the vote, I'm afraid, but I just want to say this. I have a tendency sometimes to oversimplify the issue but I can't help but think that when we have in this budget for this biennium \$14 million, I think, give or take two or three million dollars for a Fine Arts Center in Omaha, we have in the budget a couple two or three million dollars to fix up the Pharmacy Building where a contractor cheated and no one ever saw fit to chase after that contractor, we had ought to just use that building with the wiggly walls, Senator Hannibal, for the Fine Arts Center. You had your wiggly walls built in. They're going to keep on wiggling, we know that, and you're going to have a chance to spend some more money on that white elephant one of these days and you won't be here but someone will have to appropriate the money. We can find \$8.5 million to start building new confinement facilities for prisoners, and if we don't do that, we're told we're going to be under a court order to do so. It's unfortunate that the mental retarded don't have a court to speak for them. It's really unfortunate and it's one of those things that I know...and I appreciate the Appropriations Committee