

are really working hard to cut down on the expenses and to consolidate some of their programs so that they can continue to serve the clients that they did take on. Now whether you believe that they should have taken them on or not is another matter, but these clients have been taken on. And, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say that we haven't even begun to talk about the clients that haven't been taken on. There are people waiting out there, people who have graduated from high school who are ready to go into some kind of workshop setting or some kind of a program, and they can't because there is no room for them. I would like to relate to you a personal experience I have had over the last few months in working with a family who have a seven year old son who contracted spinal meningitis at the age of a year and a half. As a result of that, he is profoundly retarded and he is uncontrollable in some of his behavior. This seven year old child now weighs 70 pounds and has every evidence of becoming a very large teenager and adult. This family is absolutely in crisis, in a terrible situation, because the Beatrice Development Center says they can't handle him because he is too destructive, and the programs that we have tried to get him into, frankly, I have to be very frank about this, we have had a runaround for about four months, and I am really disgusted with it, and I am thinking if this is the kind of situation that exists for those clients who are in crisis situations, who have emotional problems to deal with along with every thing else because of the crisis, that we are not serving people right. And I want to see Senator Wesely's study go forward. I think that we can do a better job but, meanwhile, I think that this money is necessary just to maintain services. I wish it weren't so. I think it is an awful lot of money, but I would encourage you to seriously consider these additional dollars. This is a program that has been stated already on the floor, it does involve some people who cannot care for themselves.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And it is, in my estimation, top priority in this budget. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, followed by Senators Dierks, Coordsen, Hannibal, Crosby, Warner, and Moore.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, and members, I take a page out of Senator Schmit's book and say years ago, back in 1968, when we