

the general problem of delivery of services in rural areas." An attorney says, "I have dealt with Social Services here in southwest Nebraska for over nine years and it seems each year I get more and more frustrated with the system. It seems that one can never get a straight answer from them or any sort of plan put together for dealing with the problems." Another attorney says, in your packet, "A caseworker did not appear at a hearing. When I called her, it was apparent there was considerable confusion as to who was handling the case and which office was responsible for it." Another attorney has written, "In a number of cases, I feel the department has done whatever appeared to be the easiest for them rather than what was in the best interest of the children and their parents." "I have received complaints from individuals concerning the manner in which the department conducts an investigation and further complaints concerning the manner in which the department responds to the needs and wishes of the family. Specifically, I have received complaints concerning where the children are placed." A county sheriff wrote, "The local service office which I have dealt with for many years and of which functioned very well and had qualified workers no longer seems to have such and has to go through the McCook office to get workers and clearance to act. - This can cause problems in emergency cases and take hours, and take hours to get any action if we have to wait for workers from there to arrive here." I feel very strongly that if we have an outside study of the services in southwest Nebraska, it possibly could show that next year we should take up and have a study of the entire State of Nebraska, but we should start somewhere to see that if 10 attorneys and two judges are so concerned about the problem, we should look at the problem. I don't feel that \$50,000 is too excessive and I do not want to have a miniature Franklin in western Nebraska or any other part of Nebraska, and when you start with foster care homes, and if you start putting alcoholic children in alcoholic foster care homes, you are going to have a problem. So with those remarks, Mr. President, I ask this body to adopt the amendment to 1031. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Haberman amendment, Senator Warner, followed by Senators Elmer and Wesely.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, Senator Haberman came over and was visiting earlier this morning on this proposal. I didn't get a chance to visit with him very extensively. I noticed that there was LB 1032 or LB 1052, I