

Wesely. DSS I see has an appropriation of, including federal funds, of \$638 million for the forthcoming fiscal year and for '92-93, \$707 million. I would suggest to you that the five short years ago that I came to the Legislature the total appropriations which would have been General Fund rather than the blend that is reflected here for the operations of the State of Nebraska was only a little more than \$800 million. We have an agency that does a great many good and useful activities for the benefit of the low income, the disadvantaged people of the State of Nebraska. But that doesn't mean that they have the ability within the body of the bureaucracy somewhere not to follow the rules of the game. Now I understand from conversation with Mrs. Harvey, who by the way, was just appointed, just confirmed by the Legislature as Director of the Department of Social Services, a person that I personally like, I believe has a great deal of talents to bring to this job and I wish her all the best. And I think she has all of the potential of becoming one of the best DSS directors that we've had, and certainly there have been other good directors, one of the best that we've had since the creation of the department. But nonetheless, I think that when money is appropriated for a specific purpose, and in this particular case, it was to pay the extra costs of judgments that were rendered by the juvenile courts over that which was proposed by DSS and then upheld by the three-judge appeals panel. The \$500,000 was appropriated to pay these extra costs. I understand that it was used to pay the salaries for additional CPS workers, perhaps a staff attorney or two, for additional cost of doing things that the department should have already been doing to accomplish their goals and responsibilities. I have no objection to additional funding for CPS workers. I think it is needed. I think I have supported those by and large every opportunity in the past, but I believe in the appropriations process that the funding should be used for what it is appropriated for and that program money really shouldn't be transferred between one program and another. I want to give Mrs. Harvey the opportunity to get a handle on the proper functioning of the Department of Social Services to ensure that the intents of the Legislature, the role and mission of the department are carried out in the most expeditious and economical manner possible. I will be following a little bit later with an amendment to clarify the reporting procedures for DSS. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to withdraw AM1933 at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is withdrawn. Next item, Mr. Clerk.