

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I want to pass over that amendment for the time being. I have... I will offer it again on Select File.

SPEAKER WITHEM: It is withdrawn and will be refiled on Select File Next item.

CLERK: Next amendment I have is by Senator Lindsay and Senator Hall. Page 1663. (Lindsay-Hall amendment, AM1632, can be found on page 1663 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Amendment is fairly straightforward. What it would do is simply require that this commission, which will be primarily offering assistance to some of the rural counties, just simply requires that it be closer to some of those rural counties, rather than being in Lincoln it would simply require that it be in Kearney. And the reason Kearney was selected is because we do already have the University of Nebraska at Kearney. We would think that there ought to be some available space there. It's pure coincidence that Senator Kristensen is from the Kearney area. But that actually was the thinking, is that I know there is some fear about having another bureaucracy started up here in Lincoln about...that is providing services generally not to Lincoln, it's providing services to other areas. It's likely not going to be providing those services to Douglas County or Lancaster County, some of the bigger counties, simply because the systems that are in place there already provide for that. We're going to talk about appropriating half a million dollars to this system under this bill. If it was going to be providing help to Omaha, to the Douglas County area, that would eat it up. I mean, our conflicts cases last year, just for conflict cases last year Douglas County spent 480,000, and so far this year has spent 410,000. So it's clear that that is not where the money is going. It's not going to help Douglas County. Our system is already in place. If it were going to be helping Douglas County it would be...it would be...we would be eating up most of that. So I think it's intended primarily for those counties that are having a little more struggle with it. Similar type of thing would happen in Lancaster County where a system is already set up that works well and has a good public defender who does a good job. What I think this is intended primarily for, some of those smaller counties, if that's the case, it seems to me that