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essentially they could do it better, I heard nothing that was persuasive of that. The Commission for the Blind, or more properly now Rehabilitation Services for the Visually Impaired, is not an advocacy group. It is a group that delivers very real services to people who have definite needs for those services. And what this bill has as its intent is to break that away from the governmental organization--Health and Human Services--and set itself up as an independent group. Now, to give you some idea of what HHSS is now doing, they are now able to claim \$681,000 in federal aid for the support that they provide to RSVI for the services they render, that is budgeting, human resources, finance, accounting, mail distribution, all of that, and I would imagine they also do what purchasing, et cetera, is necessary. RSVI now has 45 people. They have a series of branch offices: Kearney, Norfolk, North Platte, Scottsbluff, and Omaha. The 45 people that comprise that agency may or may not be taken up in the Commission of the Blind, but I would argue to you today that setting up a separate Commission for the Blind is not like one of the commissions that Senator Schimek commented on. I agree with that wholeheartedly. This has to be a working support group that provides essential services. Now there were seven people that came in and said they thought this was a good idea, and I'm sure that they were sincere. Since then, some of them have called on me in my office and they were persuasive. They're very intelligent, they are well educated and they make wonderful arguments, but they don't persuade. This is a working group. What we would be doing by advancing this bill is we would be tearing out a portion of HHSS, and so I was looking, why would they want to do this? We inquired of the Ombudsman Office, how many complaints have you had? Two in '99, one in '98, and the comment was made, this is not a group that's much complained about. Well, that's true. And when you take those figures and relate it against the 7,500 people that are either blind or visually-impaired in the state of Nebraska, you wonder why these people want it? Well, one thing, I think they want to spend the money that RSVI now spends, two and a half or so million dollars. What they are saying, and without support that I can see, is that they can do a better job than RSVI is doing now. They don't say how and we don't have particulars. It is hard to vote against the blind. Because the day progresses on, it marches as they say, I'm not going to take a lot of time to go further than this. Senator Hilgert remarked to me it's hard