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April 6, 2004 LB 1083

SENATOR TYSON: Okay. I would like to have a dialogue with you, and I just put on my light again, about the subject of those newspaper articles, and I'm going to then broach another subject on top of that, which relates directly to care of the mentally ill. The first article...pardon me, I'm sorry. Friday, April 2, in the Norfolk Daily News there's a couple of things. Number one, if you look in the first column of that, some mental health officials are now saying that enough new community-based services could be created soon enough that the state could still close the regional centers yet in 2005. Now, under LB 1083, as amended, that will be an option. Is that correct?

SENATOR JENSEN: An option, yes. There is no dates in LB 1085 (sic).

SENATOR TYSON: That's right. We took that out. The point is, the next thing says Tom Greener, administrator for Region VI in Omaha, told the Lincoln newspaper, quote, we do have providers ready and willing to step in and do it. Now, I will mention that I spoke with Mr. Greener over the telephone this morning. I wanted to pass on some information that I had for him, a part of which was alluded to by Senator Cunningham. And without going into a verbatim copy of that conversation, I'm going to say that what I got from him was a question that no one in this room can answer except you, Senator Jensen. So are you ready for the question?

SENATOR JENSEN: I'm ready.

SENATOR TYSON: Senator Jensen, which comes first, the chicken or the egg?

SENATOR JENSEN: (Laugh) Boy, we get a lot of help here. I heard "the rooster" over here. But...(laughter) the chicken has to lay an egg.

SENATOR TYSON: Well, actually, I think the chicken comes from an egg laid by something that wasn't a chicken, but that's beside the point.