

April 22, 1975

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall the committee amendment be rejected. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I wonder if that is adequate before we reject the amendment, Mr. Chairman? I think we're going to reject something we're not sure of what we're replacing it with.

CLERK: The Warner amendments are found on page 1236 of the Journal.

SENATOR MURPHY: You want to do it without discussion? Fine.

CLERK: No, I just told you where they were.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Please vote. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is rejected. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, this is essentially what the first bill did. I need to explain briefly what the bill does. Current law prohibits a county from building any bridge with their own crew if the cost is in excess of \$5,000. There are, of course, a whole host of counties that have been in violation of . . . technical violation of that law for a long time. A \$5,000 bridge is a pretty small structure. Also in many areas there are no contractors who will offer bids on those smaller structures. Also there are some counties, in order to fully use their highway personnel, they need to be able to do this kind of work in between times so that they're fully employed. The bill . . . it was introduced. We have opened it wide open where a county could build whatever bridge, and all bridges. There was opposition to that approach feeling that on larger structures that a better price could be gotten from the taxpayers point of view by requiring bids. What the amendment does is requires bids on any structures which will cost in excess of \$40,000. Then in addition it would require that on any bridge that cost between \$10,000 and \$40,000 that the county would be required to keep individual cost accounting records of each project, and annually file those reports. The reason for this is that . . . to be insured that in fact the county and the taxpayer are better off with the county using their own equipment over a bid procedure. I move adoption of that amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Question of Senator Warner, Mr. President. I see there's one opponent. Just a brief explanation, whose Malcolm Young, and whose ENHCA? Perhaps the committee chairman ought to respond.

SENATOR WARNER: As I recall it was a contractor organization that was in Eastern Nebraska, contractors, dirt movers. They appeared in opposition to the bill as it was introduced, which opened it wide open.