

February 12, 1976

PRESIDENT: We have a motion before us now to return this There is a motion that this matter be referred to the Reference Committee for assignment for public hearing. Any discussion on this matter? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. I've been getting some input from people who work with the rehab. program now in Omaha. They're opposed to the change. There is some information I wanted to get from the Education Department. When it was brought to my attention that this bill was before the Legislature I had said that it couldn't be because it hadn't even had a public hearing. They told me it was going to be debated. I said "No, you must mean at the public hearing". They said there was to be none. In view of the nature of the bill and the magnitude of what it is attempting to accomplish, I favor there being a public hearing so that I, in trying to give all of the information to you that has been given to me, I will not misstate the position of those who are opposed to this bill. They should be given the opportunity, since it is undertaking such, I think it's a very significant move to state for a record somewhere other than in the newspaper their opposition to this move. I think the bill should be referred for a public hearing.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: You said the motion would be to move it back to the Reference Committee, I assume you mean the Appropriations Committee as it's already been referred.

PRESIDENT: I ... think not. It's never gone to the Reference Committee.

SENATOR BARNETT: Oh, well I had a different answer. I had a different answer that it had had a public hearing.

PRESIDENT: No it had not. Because it was an Appropriations bill it came to the floor ... or to General File without hearing.

SENATOR BARNETT: OK.

PRESIDENT: Senator Simpson, did you wish to be heard on this motion?

SENATOR SIMPSON: Yes, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Not being opposed to the philosophy that things can be heard in public hearings many times, this bill, in effect, has had a public hearing in that what is in this bill is in LB 975, the Governor's bill. The effect is there. We had hearings two days. No one came to oppose the transfer of this within the budget document from education to public welfare. I think this is an indication that people were not concerned whether it was changed or not. The knowledge was there that it was in the bill. Everyone.... It had been reported in the paper as it would be if we had a public hearing. I feel it already has had this opportunity.