

the bill for that reason or when the opportunity comes support legislation that would strike that provision from the bill, retaining greater flexibility for the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have some inquiries I would like to make of Senator Cullan. Senator Cullan, what is your personal experience with the Community Action Agency and I am putting it in the singular. Do you have more than one agency which is a problem for you?

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator, I guess as Chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee I have heard from time to time from members of this Legislature and from individuals in the public concerned about the operations of Community Action Agencies in western Nebraska including the one in Chadron. Several years ago I have heard complaints about the one in Scottsbluff. I have heard complaints about GOCA which is the one in Omaha. I have heard recent complaints about the Community Action Agency in northeast Nebraska and so I think in my tenure as Chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee there was generally widespread concern about Community Action Agencies and their effectiveness or structure and their delivery of services.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much. I think it is entirely possible that Senator Cullan has had a bad experience in his area. I do not feel that it is fair to penalize all Community Action Agencies because of his negative experience. I have had extremely positive experiences in my area. I am supportive of the legislation. Senator Vard Johnson, I have an inquiry to make of you if I may, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson, would you respond to a question from Senator Marsh, please.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Yes, Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Johnson, and it may not be fair to ask it in public because I haven't had an opportunity to ask you in private, is it possible that the 5% which apparently is separating you and Senator Warner is a negotiable factor that we are mandated by federal law as I understand it to give 90%, that with this change this might remove some of the opposition and is this possible to do at this stage of the game?