

February 7, 1973

(Start Belt # 2)

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature. L.B. 112 is being introduced to enforce the law that is presently on the statutes and under jurisdiction of the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission. This is under Sections 20, 122, 123 and 124 of Revised Statutes, 1943. This bill is not a housing bill. Open housing is covered by the Nebraska Civil Rights Act of 1969. This bill relates only to places of public accommodation, not private clubs, not religious corporations which are not public. The bill will allow anyone to obtain a meal, get a motel or hotel room, use restroom facilities, attend a movie, enter an amusement park, attend concert or other entertainment if they have the money. The bill relates only to places of public accommodation and gives everyone an opportunity regardless of race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin or ancestry to use these facilities. The bill provides investigation and enforcement procedures similar to existing investigatory procedures of the Commission. There is no initiatory power in the bill and a grieved person must file a charge. The Commission has received complaints this past year but is unable to remedy the alleged discrimination acts without the enforcement power. Therefore, I request that L.B. 112 be placed on general file.

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, I would like to rise briefly to support Senator Marsh's request. To me this is the equivalent of voting to have programs for crippled children and then not funding them. I think if we want to have intent of laws met, we need the backup of the laws to see that they are met or it's a cruel hoax to have the law in the first place. It is the equivalent, as I have said, of voting programs for crippled children and then not supplying the money. I certainly think this bill should be heard on the floor.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. I also support Senator Marsh's motion and I think it would be worthwhile to mention that from what I read there was no opposition to this bill and I don't know why the Committee killed it. Perhaps they did not clearly understand its import. But I'm one of those who would be benefitted by this bill and there will come a time that I might want to drive somewhere in Nebraska other than in Omaha. If I did so, I would have my family, my wife and four small children and for those of you who have gone into an eating place and never had to worry about being refused with your family, you wouldn't see a need for this bill but for those of us who have had this experience, we are very anxious to have legislation of this kind, so I think the bill should be brought before the body and when that is done, I think it should be passed.

SPEAKER: Senator Snyder.

SENATOR SNYDER: Mr. President and Members of the Body, I too feel that I, I am in support of this legislation. I have a bill that is similar to this, I believe, if I read it correctly. I am wondering with the number of no votes in the committee or otherwise votes to kill the bill, if Senator Maresh could not explain on behalf of his Labor Committee, the reasoning for fitting the bill was not necessary.

SPEAKER: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature, I did some research on this and Dr. Rogers says that there are at the present time Federal laws preventing this. In fact,