

LB 14
March 15, 1973

feel that we should not override the Governor's veto. Leave it where it is. Then let's go back to the Appropriations Committee and have at least one man put in and let's give him a larger salary than what the fiscal analyst have now put in so that we will have a top-notch man, and with communications as we have today, we can...this one man can serve very well the whole state of Nebraska.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and fellow members, I rise in support of overriding LB 14 for several reasons. For years, I have been visiting with patrolmen and without exception, they all have indicated that when they come to Court with the folks that they pick up they have no legal help. A man is picked up for dope. He hires a lawyer who is... might be, what we call, steel-trapped, as is a good lawyer and the pusher walks out of Court laughing at the Judge and laughing at the Patrolman. Now, we can't put this thing off. Last week when I was home, I went up to the farm and I had four cars stop along the highway when they saw me working in the yard and wanted to know why we cannot get some protection. Now, this is out in the country. This is in Boone and Greeley counties where we have pushers, and one of the arguments, one of the farmers said that if we don't stop these pushers, eventually we will have to lock up our machinery at night because when these folks get addicted to drugs, they are going to start stealing in order to get their daily dose or spoon or whatever they call it. Now, I don't think we should postpone this one minute, and what I want, when these patrolmen bring these folks into Court, I want them to have a good attorney which I call a steel-trapped attorney that can give...can fight fire with fire. As it has been in the past, we've been talking about the leniency of the Court. One of the reasons is that the patrolmen do not have any help, legal help. It's a one-sided deal. Let's give these patrolmen some legal help and let's prosecute these pushers. Now is the time. Let's not postpone it, regardless of federal funds. Let's do it.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Stahmer, then Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to know if Senator Schmit will yield to a question/

SPEAKER: Senator Schmit, will you yield to a question from Senator Stahmer?

SENATOR STAHMER: Senator Schmit, could you tell me, in your estimation, whether you think drug abuse, the use of drugs, in this state has increased, decreased, or has remained the same from a year ago?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Stahmer, regretfully I would say that the traffic in drugs has increased from a year ago. I know that the arrest has increased, and I would give credit for that to the increased performance of the law enforcement at all levels, both the...not only the Nebraska Safety Patrol, but the sheriff, the County Sheriff, the Chief of Police, the County Attorneys have all become more active and more alert and more experienced, and, therefore, we are getting a better record of arrest and convictions, but we need to recognize that this area is wide open and I would have to say that, perhaps, the traffic has increased.

SENATOR STAHMER: All right, Senator Schmit. I would agree with you. I think the traffic has increased in the last year and I would like to point out that a year ago at the close of the session I had a bill that was sent to the Governor that was unanimously endorsed by the Doctors of the state, was unanimously endorsed by the Drug Council of the state, and the