

March 15, 1973

(Start Belt #8)

this morning on general file was of course Legislative Bill number 43, and we will need to move on if we are going to do any debating this morning here. Attention please to the general file debate of LB 43.

CLERK: Title Read LB 43. The bill was first considered on February 23rd and then laid over, there are committee amendments by Senator Warner's Education Committee.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President I move the adoption of the Committee amendments. The Committee amendment does the bill as it was originally drafted would have affected one school district in the state where there were wards of the state, clashed within that school district, would have required the state to provide the tuition. The bill as amended by the committee would extend the same provisions to cover all school districts in the state where there were students placed in that school district either as a ward of the state or of the courts, that the state then would be paying the tuition for that student attending the school. There is an A bill which would be required if the committee amendment is adopted which I have on my desk, an estimated cost of six hundred and fifty five thousand, three hundred and ninety three dollars.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of the committee amendments? The question is shall the committee amendments be adopted, all those in favor say aye, those opposed say no. So ordered, the committee amendments are adopted. Senator Stull we are back to you.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President, members of the legislature, as this LB 43 as amended now it would cover all of the wards of the state or wards of the court and it provides that their school tuition would be paid for by the state. Now this is one group of people that the legislature really hasn't provided for. It is a continual problem of wherever these people are placed. Now one thing about it, a youngster cannot gain residence wherever he happens to be placed. Now I would like to read what the first part of the constitution says, article 8, the education section, and section 1, the legislature shall provide for the free instruction in the common schools of this state of all persons between the age of 5 and 21 years, and the legislature may provide for the education of other persons in educational institutions. Now the legislature is continually passing legislation to provide for the care and the education of people in other areas, but these unfortunate people have never received any consideration. Now Senator Warner did tell you about the A bill and I would like to go into that just a little bit farther, there is a total of eight hundred and forty four people in the state, there are one hundred and seven of them in Lincoln. There are two hundred and eighty seven in Omaha, and then four hundred and fifty of them are in various places in the state of Nebraska. The fiscal department worked out the cost of this bill, they called county seats and checked with the courts and we feel that we do have the total number identified, they used the cost of the average cost of these students in Lincoln and Omaha, for those that are in those two cities, and then they used an average for those outstate. Now I would like to point out the youngsters that out here at the Nebraska Center for Children or Youth, formerly White Hall, the average cost of those youngsters comes to ten thousand twenty one dollars a year, and that does not include the cost for education. Now I would move that this bill be advanced to E&R for initial, and I would certainly urge you to vote for this bill.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of the bill? The Chair recognizes Senator Clark.