

March 16, 1973

this statement, but the workers in McCook and Ogallala, in North Platte, in Sidney, in other places, some of them said, that we do not want the Cozad School as it is, we want all the state, all the counties to be an educational service units, and let them take care of the mentall, retarded, it's not fair to do it as it is now being done, and so in light of this, this committee has drawn up a bill, and this bill is to put every county in the state in an educational service unit, and by so doing there would be one fourth of a mill tax that would go to support all of the educational service units. The state would put up three dollars for every one dollar, that the educational service unit put up and pay seventy five percent of the cost, and now we have some counties that are not in educational service units. I have been against forcing those counties to go in unless the state paid a big share of the bill. Now I have, and therefore now I'm in favor of putting all counties in because a quarter of a mill will not be very much but we need some local input in order to create better programs. Now this committee visited Ogallala and North Platte, and in my judgement they've got a better program in those educational service units, then they have in Cozad. I have visited Cozad and I feel they have got a good program there, but I feel they've got a better program in North Platte and Ogallala, and this is educational service unit, they are doing a marvelous job, and so I voted in favor of discussing this this morning, I'm very happy to have that privilege of doing so, I think it's time for this state to decide that every mentally retarded boy and girl should have an opportunity of going to school relatively close to where they live, and that means we should have community programs and it does not mean that we have to have state institutions two of them in

(End of Belt #5)