

April 2, 1973

(Start of Belt #5)

Mr. President, members of the body, I'll be brief. I would urge the members who have been giving their attention to other matters to please join, I think this is one of, probably, the most important issues we've had in my tenure before this legislature. Not that my words are going to be that important but I think that there are those who have been working in this area who can certainly give us the life of the land. I think that it is ridiculous for us to sit here on this date and say that we are taking, quote, power away from the Executive Branch. And Senator Carpenter, with due respect, sir, I can recall when I placed your name in nomination as Chairman of the Executive Board and said that it appalled me for the years that I had been here that the Legislature had given up its authority and its rights in many areas, and as I recall, that was your platform. That the Legislature regain its strength, that the Legislature exert its rightful priorities and let the Legislature regain some of those priorities which had been acquiesced to the Governor's office, and I think that if we are going to turn around now, we are not going to turn around just for today or for a session, we are going to turn the Legislative Branch around to a point that it may be, certainly, years before it regains its rightful place. Again, not that my words are important as far as the merits pro and con on this issue, but I think that there are certainly those who were here when this idea was instituted for the Department of Administrative Services and I was particularly enthralled with one of the sentences in the return by Senator Marvel in answering the Governor's charge. That was that this area should be one which provides more effective service for the citizens of Nebraska. It should be an in-between agency and I think anyone who has served on a Committee seeking information certainly has had the...I don't like to call it opportunity.. but it has been that, to see the lack of information and the lack of cooperation that has come out of the DAS. So, again, let's pay particular heed to this. This is not just an idea that one individual has come up with. It has been a unanimous idea from our very own Appropriations Committee and has been furthered by a man who has chaired that Committee for the past dozen years and I think that we are going to have to admit that this is a very important issue and I would urge each and everyone to please give special consideration to it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis and then Senator Kelly.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am rising to oppose the Carpenter amendment. I would certainly hope that we pass this bill and if it is vetoed I hope we will override the veto. Let me explain this, if I might. I first became acquainted with Senator Marvel in 1951 when we both started in this Legislature. I was out for a long time but I watched his work closely. He's been Chairman of the Budget Committee for a mighty long time. I don't believe there, probably, is anybody in the state of Nebraska that knows any more about the Budget procedure of the state of Nebraska or its needs, its wants, or its actual uses. Senator Marvel, I know, started DAS and he's nurtured this along and he has tried to make it better all of the time. I, also, know, and I know for a fact because I was with Senator Marvel when he offered the full cooperation of the fiscal staff of the Legislature to the DAS in this present area and I know that this cooperation was given by him in the greatest respect. I am truly sorry that this situation has come about because I know that he is not introducing this bill for any personal gain, vengeance, or anything else. This bill was introduced by the Budget Committee. They know what is necessary in order to get the cooperation. I don't believe that any member of this Legislature will cooperate any better with anyone else than Senator Marvel or the members of this Budget Committee. I know this from