

April 2, 1973

briefly and make a point for it. And again we were told that the three recent Governors, most recent Governors, all opposed the idea behind LB 452. I think that really should be explored a bit further and I think that the individual members of this body elected from their respective areas must realize that we are talking about the collective judgement of 49 as opposed to the individual judgement of one in each case. The thing that really strikes me about this is, and disregard if you will the charges of partisan politics, how many times have we set here and seen "partisan politics" on that Board. Now we can continue to try to fool the people of this state in saying that there is some biblical impression given to the term of nonpartisan and that's not so. There is nothing angelic about this non-partisanship. But what about these three Governors who say we should not be doing this but DAS belongs exclusively to the Governor. I think that it really points up what we have here in Nebraska, and it's rather an atrocious situation. It's a situation whereby we have had two successive people hold the highest elected position in this state who have never as much as served on an elected drainage board district or anything else before assuming that high chair, and I've said it in public speeches and I will say it again today on this floor. There is a lot to learn about the internal politics. It's not just getting elected to office and thinking that that carries a four year mandate. There is such a thing as a struggle for power between the three branches of government, but there is, also, such a thing as protocol of how you deal within those three branches regardless of which branch you represent. I think, again, that if this Legislature does not give very strong approval and support of LB 452, you are not just losing one bill out of the 500 for this session, we are not just saying, Ok, we approve of the way DAS is today, we are doing more than that. We are turning tail and running from the things that we have said for three years we were not going to do. We have said, how many times have we said it? How many times have we privately and sometimes publicly said, the Legislature is afraid to stand up and be counted. You've got too many people in here who are too worried about pleasing enough people to get returned to office and this is one time that I hope that we will realize that this is a body that must work together. This is a body that you must defend each other as brothers at times and realize that in the end, we are not just talking about one bill, we are talking about the role this body is going to play not only for this year but for years down the road. And again, when we talk about three Governors in succession have said we should retain it the way it is, be reminded, they never served in the Legislature. They never served in a elected position other than Governor and I hope that that will be weighed considerably by each one of you when you make the decision this afternoon.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, DAS was designed to be a tool of government. It has not been what it was designed to be. LB 452 is designed to be a tool of government, not Governor, exclusively.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Richendifer.

SENATOR RICHENDIFER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask Senator Marsh a question.

SPEAKER: Senator Marsh, will you yield?

SENATOR MARSH: Certainly.

SENATOR RICHENDIFER: Do you feel that the other departments are a tool of the government?

SENATOR MARSH: Do I feel the other departments are a tool of