

April 2, 1973

(Start Belt #13)

SPEAKER: Moved and seconded to raise the call. All those in favor vote aye. Those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Clerk shall record.

CLERK: 28 ayes to raise the call.

SPEAKER: Call is raised. Clerk will announce the vote on the original motion.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 5 nays, remainder not voting.

SPEAKER: LB 48 is advanced to general file notwithstanding the action of the Revenue Committee.

CLERK: Now Mr. President, we have another motion pending. Senator Whitney has a motion pending to place LB 432 on general file notwithstanding the action of the committee.

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: This--Mr. President, this bill refers to an acoustically handicapped service out in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, which would take care of the panhandle area and possibly a few other counties in western Nebraska. The Appropriations Committee had a subcommittee and we made a study of the handicapped children problem in Nebraska and we asked the Department of Education to make a study as to the desirability of providing services for the hard of hearing and those boys and girls who are deaf in western Nebraska and the Department of Education made that study and they reported to the subcommittee and told us that we should have services there. Now, the problem is that we have about--well, just in two days, they found 10 boys and girls who are virtually deaf and they're not getting attention. Now we do have a school for the deaf in Omaha but that's 400 miles from where these boys and girls are located and so the parents do not want to send their little children 4 and 5 years of age up to say, the fifth grade, they don't want to send them away from home 400 miles, it'd be just like Lincoln people sending their children to Chicago for this kind of service. They'd like to have it right there and we found on the public hearing that one lady had moved to Fort Collins, Colorado because Nebraska was not compassionate enough to provide services for her deaf children in an area reasonably close to where she lived so she had to move to Fort Collins, Colorado because Colorado takes care of their deaf boys and girls and so I feel that since there are, this bill would plan on providing services for about 12 deaf boys and girls and the--in two days they found 49 hard of hearing boys and girls who needed specialized training. They're falling behind in their school work and they needed this training and so I hope that this Legislature will see fit to raise this bill on the floor notwithstanding the action of the Education Committee because we need to provide this service. Now the Administrator of the School for the Deaf in Omaha came to the Budget Committee and said we want to build more dormitories to take care of more boys and girls who are deaf. Well, these boys and girls are not going to go to Omaha. The parents feel that they'd oughta have these children closer to home. I'm talking about the real small children, preschool and those in the early grade school. They want to keep the children close to home so this is not going to hurt the School for the Deaf in Omaha and it's going to provide a service for those boys and girls in western Nebraska and so I feel that this Legislature should be compassionate enough to provide this. Now we're not talking about mental retarded boys and girls, we're talking about boys and girls that are just as smart as you and I are. The only problem is they can't hear. We had several people come to this public hearing who couldn't hear, used sign language and somebody spoke for them by watching