

April 3, 1973

Here is one from the counsellor to the Junior High School Saline County Mental Health, Mann E. Howard. He says, I am very much opposed to Dr. Anderson's approach to mental health problems and am very much opposed to his dictatorial methods. I think that he should be out of the picture completely and it is unthinkable that he hold more than one position in this area. And he says, my views reflect the views of the entire board of directors of the Saline County Mental Health Association. We strongly urge you to oppose the approval of Dr. Anderson's appointment. Now that's in the mental health area. Dr. Anderson himself said when he was--getting back to the correctional reform--himself stated in an interview with Marge Marlett which is in your-- which is attached in my next to the last page of the minority report that in this area of correctional field, Dr. Anderson does not claim expertise though he's had some experience in prison classification and he stated that we have a very capable deputy director Vick Walker and a very capable penal complex warden, Charles Wolfe and said his role in corrections will be mainly as a resource. Now I would agree with, I think Senator Whitney or someone, who said earlier that if we separate the Department of Corrections from the Department of Institutions that would take care of that problem, but we have to cross that bridge, we still have to come to that bridge. It may be that we should hold off our decision on confirming Dr. Anderson until we have made that decision and I will personally not be satisfied until we have made that decision because of the importance of that particular field. We have another bit of testimony that came from Dr. from Rev. Leroy Haas, who is a Lutheran minister, who is also--has been hospital chaplain in Lincoln who has done a lot of out at the regional center who also is a Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology at the University of Nebraska and he says the one thing he worries about is the sense of compassion for people. I am pained and frightened, he said, when I hear Dr. Anderson suggest that real kindness to people who have messed up their lives might well take the form of incarceration or name calling. To me this is neither compassionate nor scientific approach. I have never observed a person get better by being labeled the town drunk or a juvenile delinquent. In fact, several experimental studies have indicated that labeling a person as being no good or a criminal or a juvenile delinquent plays a part in leading him to become the kind of person the name implies. Rev. Haas goes on to say he is particularly concerned about Chapters 2, 3, and 4 in his book in which the overwhelming impression he got was that Dr. Anderson regards religion as well a cop-out and that was the name of that book and that concerns a great number of Nebraskans if they will read those chapters with the light of a man who would be head of all institutions dealing with mental health and other related activities. I have another one from Dr.--from Dr. Charles Haywood who is community clinical psychologist, a resident of Lincoln, who says that Dr. Jack Anderson's record thus far and his public attitudes show that he has an arrogant lack of interest in social and mental health problems and then talks about his book, "The Great Mental Health Cop-Out" is indeed a radical, opinionated

(End of Belt #15)