

April 3, 1973

qualities as a professional psychiatrist, there are very

(End of Belt #16)

(Begin Belt #17)

responsible psychiatrists and other persons who appeared before the committee to testify to the fact that he was very competent. The policy committee of the Nebraska Medical Association, made up of the current president and three past presidents, sent a representative to the hearing to testify to that effect, that he was competent and compassionate. I have a letter from Dr. John D. Baldwin, M.D., a board certified psychiatrist and a former chairman of the Nebraska State Medical Association Committee on Mental Health and Retardation who was associated with Dr. Anderson in a business way while Dr. Anderson was in private business--private practice in Lincoln. And may I quote from his letter. He says: "I have seen him work with patients, he is competent and compassionate and professional and has had considerable institutional administrative experience. I think his plans for psychiatric staff regional mental health clinics to be workable, economic and of potential valuable service to the people of Nebraska." At the public hearing there were four employees who testified in favor of him and I have called out to people in the state who are working under him in the mental health program and they are favorable to his appointment and have said that he is an excellent administrator. The Committee on Committees had a conference with the Governor relative to this appointment after the public hearings. The Governor indicated that he was well pleased with the administration of the Department of Institutions during the four months that Dr. Anderson has been in charge. He is most anxious that the Legislature approve this appointment. One of the criticisms that has been made is that he has hampered the particular bill, LB 302 and I want to say that the amendments which he proposed were those of the private medical practice in the State of Nebraska and he was proposing them as their representative. Since that time, he has written a letter to Senator Stahmer and me and has said that he wholeheartedly approved LB 302 as we originally had designed it, with its organizational structure and he would attempt to administer the bill to the best of his ability if it passes. Now, as chairman of the Committee on Committees, I've spent about 8 days studying into every criticisms that has been presented and I cannot find any valid criticism in my judgment and I have had the experience for many years of doing this sort of thing. Now a research study was made recently as to whether or not the dosages of drugs were greater than the manufacturer's recommendations and Dr. Cotes reported last night that of 97 patients checked at random, not a single one was receiving at the regional center any greater dosages of drugs than the manufacturers recommend. We had a criticism for example that not enough of the people were allowed to come into the Lincoln Regional Center from Omaha and we discovered of the present population 42% of them are from Douglas County. So without going into all of this, I want to say that he has many honors, he has a citation from the President of the United States to the effect that he was an excellent administrator and, in an evacuation hospital in Vietnam, that for example, may I read here the quotation of this: "Colonel Anderson reorganized his unit and under his astute guidance the most modern and effective psychiatric principles and concepts were applied, thereby insuring the optimum treatment of patients. Because of his tireless efforts, the evacuation rate of hospitalized psychiatric casualties dropped from an average of 47% for the six months prior to his being there to only