

April 4, 1973

(Start Belt #10)

Clerk reading.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion? If not, Senator Carpenter, do you wish to close? All those in favor of the Carpenter amendments say aye. All those opposed say no. The amendment is adopted. Are there further amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: None on the desk.

SPEAKER: Senator Carpenter, what will you do with the bill?

SENATOR CARPENTER: I move it be advanced from general file to E&R for initial. Now Mr. President, I have never in my public life been confronted with the position I now find myself in. For the first time in my political history, I have a bill and it's the only bill in which I knew for sure that everyone in my district wants this bill. The opposition basically to this bill comes from the normal schools. They have been responsible, at least in part, for the Chadron Chamber of commerce, which they have a right to, to hire Mr. Crosby as their lobbyist and he's a reasonably good lobbyist. Now bear in mind I asked Senator Carstens a question and bear in mind the opposition to the bill comes from normal schools and Senator Carstens, if I understood him right, said the normal schools asked that the Pershing School be a part of a normal school operation. Now we have a letter at least I have a letter in my desk from Mr. Crosby who says if you pass Hiram Scott, it's going to affect materially the appropriation to the University of Omaha and Lincoln. Now the Pershing School insofar as what it's adapted for and if it was used by the normal schools, would be in direct conflict, more than any other school in this State, with the University of Omaha and Lincoln and every other private school in that area. Now let's look at the normal schools. I refer you to bill LB 238, a bill by Senator Wiltse. I make the statement as I understand the facts that the normal schools as they are now being operated, have far exceeded any authority they would have in their wildest imagination in relationship to the law as it now exists. I'm going to ask that LB 238 be bracketed until we have a study to find out if and why all the normal schools have taken unto themselves the greatest latitude of doing what they want to do contrary to the law. I always assumed that the laws pertaining to schools were limited to the authority in the law itself but not so with the normal schools. They have spent millions of public money--dollars, contrary to the intent of the application of the authority in which they operate under. We had a meeting, for example, in Grand Island two or three weeks ago at which we had approximately 100 people there from all the areas of the known opposition to Hiram Scott. I think I can say without too much contradiction that really, the people who attended really did not understand why they opposed Hiram Scott. In fact, the President of the Kearney school as I remember it and recall said, put a different viewpoint on it insofar as he was concerned and I don't mean to imply it did anything beyond that for anyone else. What are we trying to do? We're trying to give the State of Nebraska a land and buildings approximately worth \$4 million dollars excluding any of the dormitories. The bonds are in default. They are now as I understand in the custody of First National Bank in Lincoln to act as the Referee in Bankruptcy. I understand they are willing to sell the bonds for .95¢ on the dollar but I'm not advocating you pay a quarter for them and there is no intent on my part or on the part of the University or Hiram Scott or anybody that I know of who wants the State of Nebraska, through general taxation to pay a quarter to a fourth to acquire the dormitories and I now ask any member of this body if you have any information which Senator Carpenter through this bill on Hiram Scott is trying to