

May 10, 1973

(Start of Belt #6)

call upon those of you who are waivering and I'm not sure how many fit that category. That outside of the halls of this legislature, there appears to be almost unanimous opinion that this bill is wrong. I have before me copies of editorials which you have all seen because they've been circulated from the 3 largest daily newspapers in the State. It isn't common that all 3 papers support the same position. It certainly isn't common that all 3 newspapers support Governor Exon and it is probably less common that all 3 newspapers support the same position and Governor Exon against Senator Marvel and the majority of this legislature. So it sort of becomes an issue of 25 to 30 votes in this legislature including some well respected leaders versus almost the rest of the State. The Journal, the Lincoln Journal, says whatever the defects and the present DAS direction go and however justify the legislature unhappiness with Exon in other regards the Senators should not be allowed to burn down the house to roast the pig. The Omaha World Herald, says Exon, has the better side of the argument. DAS is an executive agency. Clearly and indisputedly. It belongs with the other executive and administrative agencies under the control of the Governor. The Lincoln Star says, under the State Constitution, the Governor is the sole and quite correctly responsible for seeing to it that the affairs of the State are officially and economically administered. He is the supreme executive power. That is as it should be. Senators would be wise to read the constitution and consider the consequences of a weak governorship, before they cast the final vote on LB 452. The past Governors, Governor Crosby, Governor Morrison, Governor Tiemann and now Governor Exon, have uniformly opposed this bill and these men are not only of different parties, but have had different ideas of executive leadership. Some far more stronger than others, and they have all unanimously agreed that this bill is wrong. I don't think that we should let our love and respect for Senator Marvel or the fact that some of us have had frustrations in getting information or the fact that someone used an unfortunate phrase, sleight of hand, I doubt that there is any man or woman on the floor of this legislature that hasn't been sorry for the next day, for the things he might have said, half in jest the day before. There isn't one of us who hasn't been frustrated with information, but we have a constitutional duty here to recognize the legitimate functions of government. Senator Luedtke, says that there are other constitutional officers. There is a large body of opinion that says we maybe shouldn't have so many other constitutional officers, but as a practical matter which constitutional officers really exercise, the executive role. Who do we talk about and think about, we think of the executive government. We don't think about the auditor, we don't think about the secretary of State, we rarely think about the Attorney General. We don't think about the Lieutenant Governor, we think about the office of the Governor and its function. Now I think we ought to think when we cast the final vote on this bill about the long term good of the State, about the long range historical functions and divisions within this Government. We ought not to get carried away with momentary frustrations and if we vote for this bill, we are voting for temporary frustrations, rather than for long range solid government.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak was Senator Fred Carstens, but before I give the floor, Senator Carstens, I'd like to acknowledge the presence this morning of several visitors that we have here. We have 22 K, 1st and 2nd graders from district 14, and Morse Bluff and 9 adults, their instructor is Florence Blanchard, and they are up here in the south balcony and they are from Senator Schmit's district and then we had also in the north balcony, we have 32 5 grade students, from Parks School of