

May 16, 1973

SPEAKER: I think we have some other business that can be taken up.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now can I ask another point of order. If we have nothing else to do, can we again revert to General File by suspension of the Rules.

SPEAKER: Yes. It would be a regular order of business that we could go to General File upon the completion of the motions and so on, Select File and so on, take care of ahead.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now I move at the proper time because you do not desire to take the bills on the first column of Final Reading that if we..when we get through with the pending business, we revert to General File and start discussing bills starting with 127.

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: While we are waiting, I'd like to have a point of personal privilege, please.

SPEAKER: State your point.

SENATOR WHITNEY: The last two days is the first time I have been absent from this Legislature but the purpose was to try to preserve two soil conservation districts within my legislative district. Now I would like to alert the body to the fact that they are going to be discontinued in accordance with present decision of Keith Myers, the State Conservationist. There are going to be eight soil conservation offices..county offices discontinued in the state of Nebraska. They are going to combine Humboldt with Falls City, Arapahoe with Beaver City, Grant with Imperial, Chadrom with Crawford, Walthill with South Sioux City, Papillion with Elkhorn, Elwood with Holdrege, Chappell with Sidney. Now this means they are going to destroy eight offices, soil conservation offices in the state of Nebraska. Now, apparently, the reason for this immediately is that they cut the budget. The Nixon administration has impounded some funds. They've also put a ceiling on and those two things have required the state conservationists to say, we are going to discontinue eight of these offices. Now they say this is not necessarily going to decrease cost when you move one office to another town because they are going to then have to drive back and forth and decrease the efficiency, increase the cost per unit of work done and I think it is a bad deal. I just want to alert the body to this. The man, Keith Myers, the State Conservationist is the person who makes this decision within the budget which exists throughout the United States. Now they are doing this in other states as well as Nebraska. Now it is possible that perhaps some of these offices could be preserved if the NRD, the Natural Resource Districts, could reinstate them and pay for it out of property tax dollars but it is not necessarily true that this is going to happen. Why. Because the state conservationists, in many cases, is insisting that there be two professionals in one county and zero professional in another county and, in my judgment, it is bad management and I think those Senators who have these counties involved should be alerted to the fact that Keith Myer is the man that's making this decision and he has given two counties until May 30th to try to work out with the NRD's, the Natural Resources District boards, some recommendations on their part but even though the NRD's are willing to reinstate some of these offices in counties, we are not certain that Keith Myer will go along with it, the state conservationist. So, this, in my judgment, is hurting soil conservation in the state of Nebraska and it's going to create more inefficiency. We are not going to save much in