

January 18, 1974

PRESIDENT: Well - Senator Skarda do you wish to be heard on the amendment here?

SENATOR SKARDA: Mr. President, may I have information, maybe somebody in the body could tell me. Where's the farthest place a child could be or is being hauled now in Nebraska. Is there a possibility that a child could be hauled from Scottsbluff to Omaha on a daily basis under the Barnett amendment. That's the point I'm interested in, now I wish somebody would advise me..what I'm saying is it imaginary or is it a fact. It's a question to me and I would like to know a little more about it.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Barnett would you care to respond.

SENATOR BARNETT: Senator Skarda, I couldn't answer that specifically I don't know if anybody is being transported, you know 5 or 6 hundred miles every day. I would doubt it. From what I understand from the parents that have these children in the Nebraska School for the Deaf and the Blind. Is that they bring them down on a weekend, they may want to go back and get them in a month, they may want to go back and bring them back for the holidays, and they are now limited to a one way trip 5 times a years. Therefore, they do not get the opportunity to bring the child, when it's in the condition they could be brought for a weekend or for a long weekend or so. I can't answer your question specifically.

SENATOR SKARDA: Is there anybody in the body that can answer. If you can't, I'm afraid I'm going to vote against this amendment. I mean are we opening the door to something we don't know we're doing is a concern to me. I'm not against the handicapped or the retarded or anything like that, but gentlemen I think we ought to tie it down, if you are going to eliminate the 5 trips on the interstate, say you can make it on a daily basis. I'm concerned.

PRESIDENT: Stand by. Senator Kennedy, do you care to respond?

SENATOR KENNEDY: I was interrupted when the question was formed. Could you repeat the question, Senator Skarda, please.

SENATOR SKARDA: I asked the question if anybody was aware of how far in distance a child may be hauled, I mean could this be now if we adopted the Barnett amendment a child could be hauled from Scottsbluff say Omaha on a daily basis, it's restricted now to 5 times, what we're doing is eliminating that restriction. I hope we know what we are making of this thing, that's the question. I'm asking.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: I think I'd like to answer to this extent. They feel there will be no increase in the cost by doing this. The average trip for the State of Nebraska, outstate maybe I say us farmers are kind of conservative out there, but in rural areas we do not abuse the transportation, so the average trips have cost the state approximately \$350.00 now there will be cases where they might cost the state under this provision \$750. But we don't feel that the increase. The increase for the cost of this bill will come from the radits of the 4 mile limit in Omaha, Nebraska. This will be the large sum of the increase. The first 4 miles. Now in Lincoln, the City of Lincoln does furnish transportation for those children. It's my understanding in Omaha, the school district does not. We're trying to give