

January 31, 1974

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I move that LB704 be advanced from General File. The purpose of this bill is to designate the site of Florida Construction of additional museum by the State Historical Society if and when the Legislature would appropriate the money. I believe two years ago there was appropriation for planning money which was reappropriated last year. There is money again, at least in the Governor's budget, I can see for continued planning. As you recall the.. I think we generally have adopted this three stage construction type program of additional planning of a general nature then the following year the more detailed plans and the third year perhaps the construction, money itself. What the position of the State Historical Society is at the moment is that they have done the initial planning, but if the Legislature now appropriates money for the second stage of the planning, they must have a site determined in order that the plans would be consistent with the geography or the terrain and so forth. The site that is proposed in the bill would be the block south of the Capitol and east of the Governor's Mansion. This site would provide ample parking space for visitors. It would be convenient for those who come to visit the Capitol and the Governor's Mansion or perhaps the Kennard House together with the museum. I'm sure that it would be appropriate that these things be located conveniently for one stop by those visitors from within the state or from without the state who come to the Capitol to study the state government. So that's merely the purpose of the bill to establish or preserve that area for this purpose until such time that the Legislature would appropriate the money for actual construction if they so choose. I think the other alternative that has been discussed for this ground perhaps is a parking lot. I would suggest that while that may be an alternative, there will be as we know a great deal of parking available near the new State Office Building, and that will be available by the time that this area which now is used for temporary parking. But that area of parking would be available at the time any construction would take place in any event, because I'm sure it would be at least three or four years off.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, do you want to be heard on the bill?

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President and members of the body, I certainly support the.. anything having to do with the history of the State of Nebraska and as most of the members of the Budget Committee will attest I'm not afraid to spend money for what I consider to be a good cause. But first of all I would like to ask Senator Warner, how many square feet roughly are talking in this bill, Senator Warner?

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Stahmer, I can't tell you the square feet of the building, it runs through my mind it was something like 80,000 feet or something, but I don't believe the plan is to the stage that it's probably that detailed. I think there was an over-all figure, but I don't have it before me. I would assume that the Budget Committee has had that information because we are not talking about the building here we're only talking about the preservation of the site, or the designation of the site.

SENATOR STAHMER: We're not talking about the eventual appropriation of \$250 million just to setting aside of the site.