

January 31, 1974

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, what I was thinking of was just simply putting an amendment on this bill.

SENATOR WARNER: About my only suggestion, Senator Whitney, was that is a considerable expansion. It would seem more appropriate that it was separate legislation, but I believe your question, would I object to recognizing wheat historical importance to Nebraska and my answer is I certainly would not object to that recognition.

SENATOR WHITNEY: No, my question is...

SENATOR WARNER: I don't think this would be the right vehicle for it.

SENATOR WHITNEY: No, my question is, would you object to putting an amendment that we have a planning study for such and putting it on this bill.

SENATOR WARNER: I'd suggest Senator Whitney, that you make that a part of the Capitol Construction Budget coming out of the Appropriation Committee which would be the proper place, and you certainly would have the opportunity as a member of the committee to be sure that that come before the body. I would see no reason for me to oppose such a, infact I would support the motion, if you.. if the Budget Committee recommends it.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Fowler, then Nore, then Duis.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. As one of the committee members that heard this bill, I would like to address some of the questions that have been raised. We did ask about the Ferguson Mansion of the Historical Society People and I'd like Senator Stahmer to listen to this. The indication was not that the Ferguson Mansion would be torn down, but it was pretty well indicated that that could not really be converted into an all purpose museum like we're talking about, that would provide for a wide display of a wide variety of historical items. There is very much of an intent to preserve that sort of a museum. I think, in fact, rather than detracting from the Ferguson Mansion this sort of project could only enhance it, by setting aside a block of land or several blocks of land around the Capitol where there would be several historical sites, the Kennard Home, Ferguson Mansion and other areas. We have a situation similar to that in Washington, D.C. where we have all government buildings and a number of museums centered around one particular place that tourists can come, park their cars or whatever, and be able to gain access to all these. So I think that rather than detract from the Ferguson Mansion, this sort of project would enhance it, in fact enhance the whole area. We got statistics from the committee to indicate that the attendance at the Historical Society has dropped over the last five years, primarily because of the problem of parking. Because of the expansion on the University and other things, the amount of available parking space down by the current Historical Society is very limited and people find that if they can't find a place to park, and rather than go to the museum, tourists probably pass on and go on to another community. So I think if we want to demonstrate to people the value of our historical heritage, we have