

March 13, 1974

heard. Where the films won't be shown. That's called democracy. I really don't care where you send the bill.

PRESIDENT: The question is do you support Senator Stahmer's motion. If you do, vote aye. If not, vote no. Simple majority is required. You are voting on Senator Stahmer's motion that if LB1052 goes to a hearing that it go to the Appropriations Committee. If you support that motion, vote aye. If not, vote no. That's the only issue you're deciding at this time. Now, once again the Chair is going to ask if you're all voted. Clerk will record. Read the results.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 7 nays.

PRESIDENT: All right, the motion carries. If the bill is referred, it will go to the Appropriations Committee, at least for now. Now, Senator DeCamp, we're back to you with your motion. Are you all through discussing the motion here of whether you want LB1052 to be referred to the Appropriations Committee for a hearing or not. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, there's going to be a complex closing and I wish you'd listen carefully. I'm not in the debating or lawyerish mood right now. I'm going to really explain the problem here. I've had a couple meetings with some of the people that.....

PRESIDENT: Do I need to turn on my timer?

SENATOR DE CAMP: No, no.

PRESIDENT: All right. I will anyway just in case.

SENATOR DE CAMP: It won't be that long. Senator Kennedy has no doubt spent more time in the area of mental health and this type of thing probably than any member of the Body. And I think there's a sincere disagreement between himself and a lot of people maybe including myself in Northeast Nebraska as to what the outcome and future of the Northeast Nebraska medical center is going to be. And here's the problem in a nutshell. This building as I understand it contains the last of the in-patient people at Norfolk, once it's closed, forget it. There isn't any Center there any more really. At least in my opinion or from what the doctors tell me. All you have is a small out-patient clinic. Now, I used this example last year and I'll use it again because I think it illustrates the problem. Ever since I've been here, I've been told we're not closing the Center down. It's like somebody tells me they're not painting the wall black over in front of me and every time I look up, I see another chunk, it's completely black. And they explain well, yeah, but we're not painting it black. Okay, you might say this is the last chunk of the wall now. Once you eliminate the in-patient people, I don't think there's a medical center. However, as I have stated, I know Senator Kennedy is completely sincere in pushing this veterans program and in maintaining at least what he determines to be in his own mind and his own wisdom a mental health clinic in Northeast Nebraska. I don't believe it can be done without having a facility for caring for those who can't be walking around on the streets. However, Senator Kennedy does bring up a number of problems. If we refer it back to a committee for a public hearing, if what he says is correct, it might