

March 13, 1974

SENATOR KENNEDY: Mr. President and fellow members. I think I've had quite a little coverage today but I'm also saying that under this circumstance as I have visited many, many different legislatures, I said that this morning. The honorable Governor Ronald Reagan said Mr. Kennedy, if we could forget politics in our legislative body one week, we'd accomplish a lot of things. Now, let me say in emphasis, I think without a question we are an individual, we do not operate, we are not bound by a party. We are every one of us responsible for our vote no matter what. If you visit back in Washington D. C. where our representatives and representatives from other states and they are serious gentlemen, they shall...should be elected by political parties because they represent larger districts. If you can not get acquainted with the 30,000 population in your district as an individual and be responsible and again I say be responsible whether it's me and I was asked that question today. Am I responsible to my district? You bet I am. I'm not responsible to the Republican party. I'm not responsible to the Democrat party. I am responsible to my district, to me, we have the greatest elected Body in the United States, the only Unicameral. We cannot blame the other house, we cannot blame the senate, we cannot blame the Republicans, we cannot blame the Democrats. I remember one of our United States senators. Tom, he said, I know that's a bad bill, it's terrible, but I'm already committed with his political tie and I understood that. But it was such a bad bill, after 16 calls to United States senators, the second day they agreed to withdraw the bill. Now, I think without a question in our Body, we are individuals and we've seen that day after day. We are not responsible to a party but this is a political year. Why would this bill be introduced by a person supported by other persons? I think because it is a political year. And they will be out campaigning on this subject. And the people will listen to what we say outstate and I'd like to dedicate my service to the people in the Beatrice Home, in the Hastings Center, in the Norfolk Regional Center, rather than go out and explain to the people it ought to be non-partisan and if you don't know your representative in your little old district and if you don't elect somebody on his own merit, not on the party, you're not doing a job for your representative. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy and then Senator Kelly, Syas, Nore, Frank Lewis.

SENATOR MURPHY: I would rise in support of Senator Warner's kill motion. This Legislature is accused many times, some times falsely, sometimes truly, of irresponsible acts, of unthinking acts and of errors and omissions. But I have yet to hear any comment as inane as the comment that you see in other Legislatures when they say today, the Iowa legislature voting along strict party lines and acted into law. If this is good legislation, God help us all.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I haven't heard anything about what would be good for the political parties. Now, we're all aware that this is where the action is. And supposedly the leaders of the political action is Nebraska are right here in this room right now. And as non-partisans, we do not take part in the party politics to the extent that we should. The parties in Nebraska are very active on the local level, they're very active on the national level and they're somewhat active in