

March 25, 1974

SENATOR MARVEL: Well let me give you what I have in the way of rumors. And I..these are not unbiased comments on my part, which I assume everybody knows. The latest information that I have received is that, to what the Department of Public Institutions proposes to do is to take that main building there. Which is the administration building. The major building that will determine whether you have a Norfolk Regional Center or not. And turn that over to the Nebraska Veterans Home Administration. With the idea then, that somehow or other, magically they are going to build another building.

SENATOR DECAMP: O.K. Go ahead.

SENATOR MARVEL: I think the key to your keeping on top of this is two fold. One is to pin point the money in this bill as you see fit, so it's attributable to Norfolk and in a reasonable manner. And secondly, watch carefully as to what they do with inpatient care and what they do with outpatient care. We have extreme difficulty at the moment. And I know that we've been criticized for writing planning into this whole series of budget bills, and this to me is one of the keys to any control that this Legislature has over state government within the planning aspect. But we've got to watch the inpatient care, and the outpatient care. And we're not trying to medically determine the type of care, but we have a right to know what they are doing in this area, and once those patients leave Norfolk, where are they going? What kind of care are they receiving? And when we ask this question at the moment, Senator DeCamp, we don't get an answer.

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: And let me say this once more, when we ask the head of the Department of Public Institutions how many people do you have in the mental health area who are under your jurisdiction in the outpatient care category. And he says he cannot tell us. Now that to me is deplorable.

SENATOR DECAMP: Now, I certainly understand your problem, but as I say, my problem, or my concern is the future of the center. And I keep running against this. I'm told one thing, but the evidence points another direction. Now as I understand it from you. If this one building is turned over to the Veterans, does that mean in affect that there is no regional center for all practical purposes.

SENATOR MARVEL: That in my opinion, if that building is turned over that is the beginning of the end of the Norfolk Regional Center.

SENATOR DECAMP: And there is a bill in the Legislature to do that at this time?

SENATOR MARVEL: Well somebody who is more knowledgeable about that bill can answer that..

PRESIDENT: I believe Senator Kennedy has that answer.