

March 25, 1974

SENATOR STAHMER: This...well, I came to help you here...we started out by trying to break out of the Regional Center operation that money for Community Mental Health and the kind of money we thought we could plug into Community Mental Health. That was \$3 million. The more or less we peeled out or what was shown within the regional center operation. Now we've backtracked and left one and a half million, mostly of which is going out of the regional centers now, and programs they are running with in the regions. I know it's getting very confusing, but the whole mental health picture couldn't be more confusing if we took a course in confusion. Now we've had bills hanging over for a year. LB302, at the insistence among others of the Health Committee. No one travels around the state to try to get any information. So we are just as ignorant this year as we were last year, only now we've got a sixty-day session to be agitated in instead of a ninety-day session. Ah, what a mass of confusion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and members. I'd like to make a rebuttal to Senator Kelly. Knowing Senator Kelly, I think if I wanted to be committed to a rest home, I would probably want to be in his home. He runs a good one, I know he does. But there are...I was talking about those that are not what they ought to be. They are putting in folks who should not be in a regional center. They are putting them in with normal people, and it's not a healthy situation. And I would like to say again, that Senator Kelly runs one of the better homes in the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: One other thing for Senator Kelly's benefit. One of the amendments that was adopted by the Appropriations Committee that does not specifically spell out. We did add an extra \$650,000 at the REgional Center level for extended nursing care centers. They have been trying to get utilization of federal funds in these regional centers, and we added \$650,000 on to General Funds to go with Federal Funds to utilize these regional centers for extended nursing care. We felt that many people perhaps are being put out misappropriately. But that right now is not specifically spelled out in the standing committee amendment. I think some language is needed to spell out exactly what we did do, and what the affect of it would be.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore. I believe those are all the questions for now, Senator Marvel. Do you wish to continue.

(End Belt #6A)