

April 8, 1974

SENATOR STAHMER: I'm not sure that we are taking control away from any one. We are trying to build forward, and we are trying to get regional and community input, the same as in LB311.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Well, all right, who presently has control?

SENATOR STAHMER: Well, I think most of the control now is in Lincoln.

SENATOR MAHONEY: What is the reason that you have to wrest this control away from the system.

SENATOR STAHMER: I think community input in the public schools and in or in mental health or in mental retardation or anything else makes for better government. And if it was wrong here, it was wrong in LB311 and 403 and other similar legislation that tried to get the citizen input...

SENATOR MAHONEY: Then, Senator, are you building more and more on bureaucracy with this 302.

SENATOR STAHMER: Just the opposite, Sir. Take my word.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Well, that's the thing that I'm checking on.

SENATOR STAHMER: Absolutely, I'm opposed to bureaucracy. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Then the last question. Are you taking the control away from the elected people.

SENATOR STAHMER: No, Sir. No, Sir. Absolutely not. We have

SENATOR MAHONEY: Where do they have control.

SENATOR STAHMER: The same way they do in the encores and the mental retardation where you have the elected county officials. There is no way that you can run programs in this state with state tax money without elected officials, and I would be the first one to try and oppose it. In fact, this is the step in trying to get more elected officials into the act. Not the opposite.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel. Are you all through discussing Senator Marvel's amendment here. Wait just a minute. Excuse me. Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President, I don't have too much to say to what has already been said, but I do feel that if you are in favor of continuing what I call the snake pits in the state, and we have taken down I think some over two thousand down to 700, the tenants, the patients in these state hospitals. We don't intend to close them up. But we do, but this will help taking a lot of people in our community to some community treatment center where they would not have to go to the state hospital. I think it is a well worked out bill, and I can't see where anyone could be criticized if we go ahead with 302.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel. Now, Senator Marvel do you want to close on your amendment here. Apparently Senator Whitney still