

April 8, 1974

SENATOR MARESH: One more question, Senator Stahmer, I have been trying to find out if this program will cost Fillmore County under LB302 or the way it is now. What is your answer to this?

SENATOR STAHMER: Well, we already have some money plugged into the budget bill for provisions similar to what are contained in LB302. And in fact at one time the monies in the bill were three million dollars, but at Senator Marvel's suggestion, we cut that money in half, but I think the money basically is there to get the job started. And if I can reply somewhat as to what Senator Murphy said. I don't think anyone on our committee thinks this is a perfect bill anymore than we got perfection now in retardation. But I do think it's a step forward. And I wish I could have the only button down here and draft a perfect. I'd draft a perfect a bill and I'd zip it across but no one else would agree to that. So we have to go forward in stages. And no one of us is completely happy. But if you think we are going forward in mental retardation...correction yes, for the mentally retarded and also for education in special services, which I think we are. I think this is just more or the same. And I honestly think it's a step forward, but mostly for outstate Nebraska just as 403 and 311 biggest impact was in outstate Nebraska.

SENATOR MARESH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Moylan and then Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MOYLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature! I don't know who I should ask this question to, however I think that maybe Senator Whitney might answer it. As I understand, and I've been in contact with people who are closely connected with the mental health plan in the state. I understand that LB302 as it came out of committee was a well organized and accepted bill. Without any further amendments. What is your comment on that, Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Senator Moylan, you are absolutely correct. Senator Tom Kennedy and his committee on health and public welfare amended this, brought it out and I think it is very acceptable just like it is. But Senator Stahmer, Nore and I since there have been some desires to have this amended to some extent, we have attempted to take all these amendments and put them into one package, and to put them into the bill. They won't hurt the bill, they'll clarify it just a little, but they will not hurt the intent of the bill. And what we are really after is to provide mental health care for the people of Nebraska and do it in their communities where they can stay on the job and continue to be in the work force and be with their families. And so, when Senator Murphy says that there's problems here, we have no problems with this bill. It could be advanced to Final Reading, just as it is right now. Without any problems at all. And cancel out all the amendments, but we have been trying to get along, with other members of this body who wanted some slight changes in it.

SENATOR MOYLAN: Well, I don't know who wants the slight changes. But I talked to many that have expertise in this line and they insisted that the bill would come out as it was put