

April 8, 1974

SENATOR MARVEL: In the process of my closing, I would like to ask both Senator Whitney, if I can get his attention. And Senator Stahmer a question.

PRESIDENT: Certainly.

SENATOR MARVEL: Now, Senator Stahmer, if I might. You have some amendments here, which you propose to offer if I withdraw my amendments, is that what you mean.

SENATOR STAHMER: Yes, I've gone over these with Senator Whitney and Senator Nore and they contain about 75% of the amendments that you are offering, and then they contain some other amendments and if I might give a word to Senator Moylan. There is no such thing as a perfect bill, but I think that bill could have been improved on as it came out of committee, and I think some of your amendments were good, and all of these were gone over by Doc Kolter, and I said to him...

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, you don't have the floor, please answer to Senator Marvel, and I know that you want to do this but I've got to hold down the debate somehow or another here please...would you please just answer Senator Marvel's question.

SENATOR STAHMER: I'm trying and I just had ten words left.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: Could you tell me in a ..now I'm not trying to play games with you...could you tell me what your amendment proposes to do a basically...Alright basically, the chief difference would.... that my amendment doesn't do.

SENATOR STAHMER: All right basically, the chief difference would be..I think you are asking for a delay or in essence for a year's study, and I think that this delays the implementation of trying to line up the county board members within these regions, and I have faith in these people. I think they want to do right. I've seen it in ENCOR, I've seen it in Retardation. I have already seen it in mental health out in the panhandle in Grand Island, where these county people have gotten together. The chief thing here is just to go forward and help, have these county people in there various areas help mind the store. It's no difference than what we do in the school district, where we have an elected school board, rather than trying to run all of education out of Lincoln. It's just that simple. And I think that safeguard of having these county people looking over the shoulder and trying to put the local input into it, as they do in mental retardation is a healthy thing. I think you have given speeches in the past, and I've agreed with you and I've lauded you when you have said we need some steps toward regionalization. And this is what this is. It isn't complete autonomy at the region where we just forget Lincoln by a long shot. But it is at least is a step to get some people in the regions. The county commissioners helping to coordinate, so we don't have the duplication.

SENATOR MARVEL: I've been exposed to mental health for 15 or 20 years. I've never seen it in as completed Disarray as it is in the state today. I've never seen a lack of planning as