

April 9, 1974

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I wasn't even aware of this problem until walking in and hearing these two discussing it. And I want to ask both Senator Stahmer and Senator Carstens some questions. So I can understand the issue a little more clearly. As I understand it, Senator Carstens, you say if we do not return the bill and put your amendment...or put an amendment on or do something with it that you want, that this building can not be built or that we won't get cottages. As I understand it, Senator Stahmer claims that we can get cottages built but it won't be this one. Now, is this essentially correct?

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Carstens.

SENATOR F. CARSTENS: What I'm saying is that if this amendment isn't adopted, then the bids on these cottages which are about to be opened as I said this week, will have to be thrown away and we'll have to start all over again. And now for some mysterious reason, nothing ever gets started in this day if we appropriate money in 1974 for construction, it takes about 1975 or 1976 before we ever get started. Now the reason this has been delayed a year is not the blame that the state home, it's not the blame ...the people down there are not to blame. We just never get started. We've been ten years on an office building and still aren't anywhere. I don't know why that is but this is the way it goes. Now it'll be another year long.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Okay, your contention though is this building can't be built and you think that because of the time limitation, a substitute building won't get built. Now, from Senator Stahmer, do you foresee a substitute building getting built? In other words, my understanding is that we would use conventional building structures and design and it's also my understanding with what little familiarity I have with the trade that you could come up with a set of plans, a conventional set of plans in a matter of a couple of weeks. Isn't this true?

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Senator DeCamp, I'd say absolutely, if I wanted to not have cottages, I would have stricken some of the money. The money is all there. I absolutely think the children will be in cottages faster if it's re-designed and go to a simple plan, that the workmen in Beatrice can handle. These buildings are so complex, I question whether anyone in the Beatrice area can even work...most of those people can even work on it. I think we ought to give those people down there a chance to build some conventional type cottage, homes, and go. Those kids will be in the buildings faster than if this plan...but that's not the chief thing. The chief thing is they want to tie it up in federal court. And then where are you? That's...if it weren't for the possibility of a lawsuit, so help me God, I'm just told what's going to happen.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Well, then at least you feel conventional housing could be built in the same time frame?

SENATOR STAHMER: Plus the fact it won't be in the federal lawsuit. There...won't be drug into court. This will be drug into court.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Okay, now, just again from what little familiarity I have with construction, a plan like this which