

April 9, 1974

because he has included in his amendment that the unexpended balance existing on June 30, 1974 for this project is hereby reappropriated. And as I understand it it's over a million dollars. Now what will happen if we knock off this, I don't know but I think this should be taken into consideration.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Schmit and Senator Marvel.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Carstens a question if he would yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carstens yield to a question?

SENATOR CARSTENS: Yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Carstens, will these children who live in these cottages be likely to remain in those cottages for a long period of time?

SENATOR F. CARSTENS: No. The purpose of it is...the purpose of this whole thing is to upgrade the living conditions of the Beatrice State Home which now has barracks type. Where they all live side by side and share a common bathroom. The purpose of these cottages and this construction is to take them out, put them 18 in a cottage, 3 or whatever it is to a room, and adjust them to living conditions where they take their own responsibilities. Have their own privacy, have their own bathroom, have their own furniture, etc. where they can live as you and I live in our homes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Then may I ask another question then?

SENATOR F. CARSTENS: Go ahead.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Then the reason behind this design supposed to be so that the children can benefit in a manner in which they would not benefit in conventional design. Is that right?

SENATOR F. CARSTENS: Absolutely.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well then, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, again I'm not familiar with the necessity of this type of design. We all recognize that you can build conventional structures for less money. The point that I want to make here is that perhaps the design which has been drawn and which hopefully has been drawn by experts does have a therapeutic value and perhaps in that light can the expense which we can afford. You know, it's very easy to build a box structure and we have those now at Beatrice and other institutions. That does not say that it serves the purpose best. And I think we should look long and hard at this. None of us want to spend additional funds and I respect the members of the Budget Committee because I know that they have a tough responsibility in this area. But just as we hire experts, we hire professional people at salaries far in excess to that which we hire ordinary technicians. Because they fill a special need. Then perhaps these buildings will fill a special need and if so, we should perhaps not tie our hands and therefore, I'm going to support Senator Carstens.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I'm just going to make one or two comments. I think the whole question that we're discussing is a moot question. The money that was set up for this and was re-