

March 30, 1979

LB 198

what Senator Beutler will be addressing.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do you want to read the Beutler amendment, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, the Beutler amendment is on page 1174 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Let me start out, if I can, by giving you a little background about what this is all about. Basically the bill started out by being a simple bill that I introduced on behalf of the City of Lincoln to allow them some increased flexibility. Basically what it does, it allows the city, the joint city-county health department to choose a director who is not necessarily a physician. If they choose a director who is not necessarily a physician, then they will have a physician part time at least helping out that director. Under the present law the director of the city-county health department has to be a physician. If you look on your committee amendments, page 3 of the white sheets attached to LB 198, on page 3 of those Standing Committee amendments, the first lines 1 through 13 contain what the present law would be and what this bill was all about as far as I was concerned at the beginning. Okay, at the beginning the bill applied only to the City of Lincoln. It was amended by the committee to include the City of Omaha so that with reference to the City of Omaha now, it would also be true if the Standing Committee amendments are adopted that the director of their joint city-county health department would not henceforth in the future necessarily have to be a physician. The whole idea of the amendment is economy and also to give increased flexibility to the county and the city with regard to finding someone who is both an able administrator and qualified to do the job. I should explain briefly the way the statutes are structured. There were a set of statutes that pertained to everyone but cities of the primary class. The City of Lincoln had a separate set of statutes. The Public Works Committee, then, took those separate Lincoln statutes and repealed them and put Lincoln under the statutes that pertain to all the other cities in the State of Nebraska. The City of Lincoln was a little upset at first by being thrown back in with all of the other cities because there were several differences between the two statutes. The Public Works Committee I think did a good thing but I don't think that they had time to look at the Lincoln statutes and ask themselves are there any parts of the Lincoln statutes which might be better than