

April 27, 1979

LB 161

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is carried. The amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, this bill, LB 161, is known as the Older Nebraskans Act. It deals with a number of different areas dealing with older Nebraskans and the aging. We, one, increase the mandatory retirement age to the age of seventy. This is in part dealt with by several other bills. One of those is LB 391 which we just discussed and advanced and Senator Duis has agreed to sit down with the co-introducers of LB 161 to discuss how we could work out any differences and come to some consensus on these two pieces of legislation. So it raises the mandatory retirement age to seventy. It also raises the age prohibiting discrimination based on age to the age of seventy. That is very important. It also sets up this commission, a coordinating commission, to try and bring together the different agencies and departments of state government to annually come up and draft a comprehensive plan for the aging that attempts to make the best use of our tax dollars in the most efficient and effective manner possible, deal with the problems in this state for the aging. The multiple effect of all these different issues and subjects that are brought together in the Older Nebraskans Act is I think with the passage of LB 161 we are going to have a more coordinated and effective way of helping the older people in this state and I think that the bill is noncontroversial. There really shouldn't be any problems with it. If you have any questions, I am sure that we would be happy to answer them, but fundamentally, we are taking a positive step forward in trying to deal with the problems we have in this state for the aging and the other co-introducers are Senator Labeledz and Senator Newell and I believe they have comments to make or they could answer any questions as well.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is advancement of LB 161. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. I am sorry. Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to ask Senator Wesely, who is on this new commission and why is the commission formed?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, as I mentioned earlier, when we were discussing some of the problems that we were having in this state for the aging, we discovered that there was a lot of tax dollars going into programs for them but there wasn't communication and coordination so one agency was doing this while another agency was doing the same thing and they didn't work together and our thought was and it has been done else-