

February 14, 1980

LB 663

usually the case of expanded services but I am not aware if there is a direct request as such, at this point at least, to do so. But in any event it would be limited by the level of appropriation that was authorized. So I would move the bill be advanced.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan and then Senator Johnson.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would have a question of Senator Warner.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Warner, how much are we spending on this particular program right now and what will be the level of expenditure and the increase in the cost of this program if LB 663 is authorized?

SENATOR WARNER: If you will look at the fiscal note for the A bill if there had been one, the fiscal note indicates that the general fund appropriation request for next year is \$126,000 and that was just to continue the two operations now, one in Grand Island and one in Omaha.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay, thank you, Senator Warner. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think we need to look at this bill a little more carefully. It is a major bill that does reauthorize what I think is a major program now and one that could become very costly in the future if a number of displaced homemakers centers are established throughout the state and I think we need to watch this bill very carefully. I am not sure at this point in time I oppose it, but I am not at all satisfied in my own mind that I can support it without a great deal more explanation, a good deal more information about how this program has worked in the past and what justification there is for expanding the program, one which, of course, I have some concern about initiating. I am not sure that in my own mind and I haven't seen evidence that would indicate to me that the program does have the level of need that matches the appropriation and certainly I don't know that the program needs expanding which this bill, of course, would authorize. So I would ask you to be very cautious in advancing LB 663 and perhaps this is a bill that should not be on the consent calendar and one that we should watch with a little bit more care. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson, do you wish to be recognized on the advancement of 663?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker and members of the body.