

March 20, 1980

LB 754

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up, Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Simon, I think that I perhaps owe Senator Simon an apology to this extent. The other day when we had a disagreement about this particular bill, I used the word obnoxious to describe Senator Simon and I apologize for that. I am sorry that it has angered him. Now I would like to proceed with the discussion of the bill. The Public Health and Welfare Committee has adopted only one amendment to this bill at this point and time. The amendment was at the request of Senator Simon and limited the cost of the study to the maximum of \$50,000. However, the bill as then amended was killed by the Public Health and Welfare Committee as Senator Simon has indicated to you. I disagree with Senator Simon's statement as far as the study is concerned. I believe that it is not a simple study. The study proposed in LB 754 would examine the following areas: (A) The quality of care received by residents in nursing homes. This would include an assessment of patients prior to placement, care plans and frequency of review, discharge planning, appropriateness of placement, education and experience of staff, staff training, pay rates, turn over rates for staff, staff patient ratios, and availability of specialists. (B) The effectiveness of state regulations including staffing regulations. (C) Compliance by nursing homes with state laws and rules and regulations and the cost, two nursing homes of compliance with state rules and regulations. (D) Rates charged by nursing homes. (E) Other areas regarding the operation, management, financial affairs and regulation of nursing homes. In addition the study would include recommendations of steps to improve state laws in each of the areas. In discussion recently, in calls to Kansas City office to obtain information about funding of studies, we recently learned that the Department of Public Welfare in the State of Nebraska has applied for \$200,000 grant to study the discharge rates in nursing homes and the level of care in some nursing homes. This \$200,000 study will be a one year study as it is proposed and will apply to only twenty-four nursing homes. If a study of this magnitude proposed by the Department of Public Welfare, which is much more narrow in scope than the broad study proposed by Senator Simon would cost the State of Nebraska \$200,000. It is difficult for me to see how Senator Simon can accomplish, even begin to accomplish his goals with the