

April 15, 1981

LB 328, 477

concern, again I would like to ask Senator Schmit a couple of questions, but we are shifting these functions now to the Nebraska Commission of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. I think that has been primarily federally funded, is that correct, to date, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Schmit, will you respond?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I am not an expert on that, certainly, but I would believe you are right, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess my question is this. It seems to me that that commission, if I am remembering correctly, is almost exclusively federally funded and we are going to go into a period now where a large amount of those federal funds may be at jeopardy. In other words, most of the functions of that agency may be ended in the next two or three years if those funds are cut off which there is a good chance they will be. If that is the case, then it appears to me that perhaps we are shifting functions to them which will have the effect of perpetrating a separate agency which may otherwise go out of being in a couple of years, and if it is true that most of these federal funds may disappear, might we not be wiser to leave these commissions and agencies where they are right now and see what happens with the federal funds so that we are not sitting there with an agency that has only one or two functions in three or four years?

SENATOR SCHMIT: If I may answer, the agency, regardless of what happens to the Crime Commission, you are going to have a Jail Standards Board and it exists as a board, an appointed board. You can wipe out the Crime Commission and you are still going to have a Jail Standard Board. You don't wipe that out along with it. At the present time, the location of the staff is all we are changing, its location. There is no jurisdiction of the Crime Commission over the Jail Standards Board. They are an independent board.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR NICHOL: The motion is to advance the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no...say aye, opposed no. Those in favor say aye, opposed nay. The bill is advanced. We will go on to LB 477.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have E & R amendments to LB 477.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Kilgarin.