

April 30, 1981

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properly handled by June 30th nor would they be able to encumber the funds, so we removed that ceiling of \$300,000 which will still be the amount approximately which will be reappropriated, but because of the processing of the paper work will not be completed. It takes the ceiling off. Then next would be some increase in cash fund authorization for the Department of Economic Development for the operation of the Omaha Information Center. Originally it was anticipated to open in April and now it is anticipated that it could be open in January instead, and this would provide the funding from that point if necessary. The next amendment is transfer of \$114,637 of General Fund money from the Department of Economic Development to Policy Research. This offsets transfer of federal fund from... just went the reverse way from the Office of Policy Research over to the Economic Development, and includes an adjustment in the Personal Services in the program in the Department of Economic Development as well. And then the last amendment was one that should have been in the bill originally which transferred the Rail Planning function which previously was in the Department of Economic Development to the Department of Roads which some of you may recall there were a number of transportation related activities transferred to the Department of Roads including the barge transportation, but also this dealing with rail. So I would move adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Fowler, did you wish to speak to the amendments to the committee amendment?

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes, Mr. President, I just wanted to speak on behalf of the Appropriations Committee amendments, particularly the one with regard to the Policy Research Office. The resources of that office have been stretched considerably. It's been pointed out in recent audits. They are being called upon to provide resources beyond just the immediate office and assist the Governor's office. Originally, two secretaries in that office and a good deal of mailing equipment and typing equipment was being used directly for the Governor's office. Since then, I believe a third secretary in that office is being utilized to provide assistance to the Governor's office diminishing the available resources for other responsibilities within the Policy Research Office. So I think adding the \$110,000 and restoring that which we, through a failure, I guess, at least on my part a failure to understand originally the intent of the shift from federal funds from one office to another. By putting the \$110,000 back we can at least restore some resources to Policy Research Office that we had inadvertently moved away. I am very sympathetic to the position of that office in the way that many of their resources are being utilized. So with that,