

March 10, 1982

LB 522

would you ladies stand and be recognized. Welcome, indeed, to your Unicameral, you ladies from Ord. We're ready to go then on agenda item #7, General File, priority bills, special order by the Speaker. Commence with LB 522.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 522 was a bill introduced by Senator Vard Johnson and Senator Cullan. (Title read.) Mr. President, the bill was first read on January 20 of last year. At that time it was referred to Public Health and Welfare. The committee amendments were adopted, Mr. President. The Public Health and Welfare Committee amendments were adopted on April 28 of last year. At that time the bill failed to advance. The bill was considered on March 3 of this year, Mr. President. There were a couple of motions offered. The first motion I have to the bill, Mr. President, is from Senator Newell. Maybe Senator Johnson should explain the bill.

PRESIDENT: All right, let's give Senator Vard Johnson a chance to explain the bill. Then we'll get to the first amendment. Senator Johnson, do you wish to do that?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, we began our discussion of LB 522 about a week ago this time and we never got to the point of taking a vote of this measure on General File. As you may recall, LB 522 changes the way we administer welfare in the State of Nebraska so that after July 1, 1983 the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare will be solely responsible for the administration of public welfare in the State of Nebraska and county boards who since actually 1866 have had responsibilities for welfare administration will have no responsibilities for welfare administration. They will have no responsibilities for a general assistance program, no responsibilities for an emergency assistance program, no responsibilities for an ADC program, no responsibilities for a medical assistance program, no responsibilities for a supplement to the SSI program. The full responsibility for the administration of those programs will lie with the State of Nebraska as it does now, as it does now with every other state in this Union except eighteen. The basic rationale behind this measure is it permits an efficient delivery mechanism for public assistant benefits throughout the State of Nebraska. A week ago on the legislative floor I indicated that the State of Iowa in 1973 adopted the statewide administration structure. Since that time I have gotten some more information from Iowa which has shown that this year alone Iowa made some alterations in its administrative techniques at a projected savings next year of \$4.5 million. Those kind of things can be done only if there is a state administered welfare program. Now, the bill did not advance last time. We didn't take a vote on it but it became very clear that there were members in here traditionally supportive of this legislation who were nervous because the

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