

April 16, 1982

LB 255A, 404

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Lamb voting aye.

SENATOR LAMB: Have you all voted? Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read record vote as found on page 1969 of the Legislative Journal.) The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

SENATOR LAMB: LB 255A (E) passes on Final Reading. The next bill is LB 404.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk.

SENATOR LAMB: Read the motion.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to return LB 404 to Select File for a specific amendment, the amendment being to strike Section 13 of the bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I want to make a few points about this bill because I think it is one that perhaps...well it is one on which I want to be sure that everyone is aware of what the bill does and the implications of the bill because I believe that it represents the creation of a major new bureaucracy. The motion itself is directed at striking Section 13 which creates the Department of Aging and what the bill does basically is create a new Department of Aging to pick up many of the functions that are being performed now and to set up a system of area agencies and a system that parallels to some extent, it appears to me, the mental retardation regions. The first point that is troublesome to me and I want to make clear at the beginning that I am not against specific programs for the aging. There are a number of problems that Senator Fowler and others have addressed that I think need to be addressed and we need to continue to address. My point in getting up today is not to oppose programs for the aging as such but to ask you to think about whether the kind of structure, the kind of formalized structure that we are setting up in government with this bill is, in fact, a good idea. Let me say first of all that I think in my opinion, that it is philosophically incorrect for government to set up agencies based on age groups, whether it is for the aging or for the young or for the middle-aged. There are truly problems associated with all the different stages of life and I don't think it is right for the government to single out a particular stage of life and say we are