

February 6, 1973

well the program is working at present. One lady brought in a letter from her son that he hadn't been able to write before. He wrote out this letter which was very impressing. There were a large number of parents present at the hearing and they were unable to hear because of time limitation. There was no opposition to the bill and committee advanced the bill to general file on unanimous vote.

CLERK: Mr. President, here's an amendment to the bill.

SPEAKER: Read the amendment.

CLERK: (amendment read).

SPEAKER: Senator Carpenter, do you care to take up your amendments here on L.B. 102.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now, Mr. President, bear in mind that this is an authorization in any form. It doesn't mean anything unless we fund it, except, we're stating the principle, the State of Nebraska, in this field, which I am in concurrence with except I want to go further apparently than Senator Savage does. If you go to the bill I think this is important. If you go on page 2, what we do, we strike out the word "may" and put the word "shall" in there which doesn't mean anything except it says it shall and that it's up to this Legislature to make it effective and have to fund it. Then you strike out the words "at its discretion", at its discretion. In the first place you say they may and then you give them another area in which at their discretion they may not want to do anything and I think this bill is important enough and the problem is big enough we ought to do something about it. In line 5 we strike the word "may" and insert the word "shall". We do the same thing on line 16. Now on line 18 I think it's too broad to say we can send these children to any place in the United States of America. I think it ought to be confined to the State of Nebraska. If we don't have the facilities, let's get them and that's what this bill provides. On line 22 we strike the word "may" and insert the word "shall". And on page 5 on line 15 we strike the word "may" and put the word "shall". In other words, if these people are able to pay in whole or part a part of the service that this bill anticipates, then they should be required to pay it and it shouldn't be discretionary, and the bill also provides how to find out whether those people are able or not able to pay a part or all of the bill, and I think the bill ought to have that provisionary even though not very many people would be able to do, to pay either in whole or in part. Now what this thing does, it makes this bill a good bill. It means what it says. If the State shall adopt that as its policy, they shall do these things and then if we pass this bill which is an authorization at least whether you pass the appropriation or not doesn't make any difference to the extent we have adopted it as a principle of this State, the contents of this bill. It says we mean what it says, we intend to do something about it. You see, we've got a habit in the legislative body of authorizing but never funding. On the other hand, it's always an advantage to have an authorization because then it always makes possible in the future to date a fund either in a small or a progressive state so at the end of a period of time we eventually arrive at the ultimate and these people who have these problems really have got a problem and if every member of this body had the same problem and I don't know why the problem exists. That's something the Lord has not confided in us yet, but it does exist, if everyone of us had the problem, this bill would pass by 49 votes. Now, I, I'm in full agreement with Senator Savage and I'm in full agreement