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program. So this is strictly an attempt to meet the objection of the Attorney General and is introduced for the benefit of local areas who are interested in starting community based mental retardation projects. Now, Senator Whitney, if I have left something out, I'd appreciate it if you'd add to it.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. This bill is very important bill and it comes about because the Attorney General made an interpretation of a previous bill in this Legislature and the original bill was not written to express the exact intent and so now, we're trying to reproduce this in such a way that it will meet the original intent of the Legislature and we've gone to the Attorney General and asked him if the wording now that we have in this bill will do exactly what this Legislature originally intended to do and he says yes, this is okay, this is fine and so, it's a very important bill and I feel that we've got to pass it because if we don't, some of these people who now are engaged in taking care of the mentally retarded children in the State of Nebraska, are not going to get paid their wages the rest of this year.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of the bill? Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAMMER: Mr. President and Members of the body. As a member of this subcommittee, I wholeheartedly support this measure and I concur in what Senators Marvel and Whitney have said and I would hope that when this bill is advanced, that it could be expedited because it is important monetarily that this measure be brought into correction as quickly as possible.

SPEAKER: Chair next recognizes Senator Kelly, then Senator Nore.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and Members of the body. My question to Senator Whitney is, what services would the Educational Service Units perform? That they're contracting with?

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney:

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes. I would like to answer the question. There is a law in the State of Nebraska that if any children of parents who are mentally retarded are not receiving an education, that those parents can request the school board to give their children that education and the school boards have to do it. Now, then there are cases when the school boards are unable to do it because of sparsity in population, they have too few or something like that and so then they ask the Educational Service Units to give this education to these retarded boys and girls and so then the Education Service Units take over and actually do it and so, they in turn, then, are doing exactly what this Legislature intends for them to do. Now, of course, some Educational Service Units do not have mentally retarded programs as in my judgment they should have and as was the original intent of the Legislature that all of them do it, but they do have then these mentally retarded educational programs. They have workshops whereby the mentally retarded, ages between 5 and 21, can produce goods; for example, out in North Platte and Ogallala just as a typical example, we have the electronics factories, that, private business are cooperating with the Educational Service Units and these boys and girls are able to produce the electronic products and the electronic manufacturers buy these products from these Educational Service Units such that the boys and girls can earn a little money, some of them earning up to \$100 a month to help keep themselves going and these are some of the projects that the Educational Service Units are doing.

SENATOR KELLY: Now this, this has nothing to do with the mental health programs. It's strictly mental retardation?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes, this has only to do with mental retardation.

SENATOR KELLY: I thank you.

(End of Belt #6)