

March 21, 1973

because I know that each of you must deal with your own conscience, but I would hope that this body will take another look at this thing, we have criticized law enforcement, we have criticized the courts, let us not be subject to the same criticism because we refuse to act responsibly in the area of appropriating the money necessary to do the work. I did not pull these figures out of thin air, in regard to the amount of people that I recommended or the amount of dollars that I recommended. I visited with many people in law enforcement, county attorney's offices, across the state of Nebraska, and it was after those visits that I recommended this number of persons, I do not know if it is adequate, I do know that Colonel Krueger told me, that with this number of people they would do a better job and he thought he could do an effective job. I'm not going to, I'm not going to go into the, in so far as whether or not, it is going to be the final answer. It takes many, many ideas, it takes many solutions, and for us to solve this problem, but all of us have to do what we think is necessary. I spoke last night for an hour and a half, to a young mother who has a member of her family, a young girl, seventeen years of age, who has been gone from home for a number of years, she became a drug addict, a hard, an addict of hard drugs, they do not know where she is, they do not know if she is alive or dead, all they know is that she became addicted to heroin and she is no longer within the family circle. I have had letters from virtually every county in the state, every single county, in support of this type of bill. Most of the people, most of the people who have written to me, have expressed the same concern that has been expressed here repeatedly. It is our responsibility, it is our responsibility to do that which we think is right and necessary and I hope that you will agree with me, that the right thing to do this morning is to pass LB 13, now if we, it is unnecessary, if it is unnecessary to pass LB 13, perhaps what Senator Keyes pointed out will be done, perhaps the men will not be hired, I do not know, what I do know is if we do not pass it, there will be no fifty thousand dollar fund to make buys, there will be no money available for the Narcs to work with, there will be no additional people hired in the area, specifically directed towards drug abuse programs. Senator Marvel has pointed out bluntly, there are no people specifically assigned for drug work, in this budget we have talked about this morning. Now let's assume that we waste two hundred and eighty four thousand dollars, by passing LB 13 and LB13A. Let's assume we just threw it down the drain. That's the worse thing we can do, and let's admit candidly it's a lot of money, but that, but if that's the worse thing that we do, it isn't going to shake the foundations of the state of Nebraska, on the other hand, if we do not pass 13 and 13A, we have told those persons who are engaged in the pushing of hard drugs, the legislature puts two hundred and eighty four thousand dollars ahead of the safety and the security of the young people of the state of Nebraska. We spoke about it a few weeks ago, and I said that more than that amount of goods stolen every week in the city of Omaha, to finance the heroin addict. The public pays for that. I want to say one more thing and then I'm going to close and that is this, we have what, we talk a lot about the problem with our police department, we talk about corruption in police departments, and I suggest that by gosh, we need to do something to provide these fellows with incentive to get out and do the job we hired them for. I hope I have not mentioned this before, before this body, but I know of a sheriff in the State of Nebraska, who could have picked up fifteen thousand dollars just by turning his head and walking away when he had made an arrest. Repeatedly I have talked to narcotics investigators who have told me that without a doubt they could pick up from a hundred dollars to thousands of dollars each time they pick up a heroin pusher, because these people have money on hand and they are not afraid to bribe and attempt to