

The law now says on the books that you cannot start a building for example, as an illustration, until you've got all the money accumulated before you start building it. This was put on a number of years ago when we had some problem as I recall with the Normal School in Kearney. Now what this bill would do it would eliminate that restriction. So there would be no longer any restriction in the State statute which says you had to accumulate all the money before you could start any of the construction, any of the building or buildings. Now it seemed to me on the budget when we discussed that particular in the field of capital expenditures, it could be quite important because obviously with the money that some people are suggesting we appropriate, in my judgment, not be available to all in one year. You might desire to project these improvements over a period of two or three or four years which obviously would mean you'd have to have that much less each year in order to start the construction after the contract had been let. Now I have no pride of ownership in this thing at all except I'm trying to foresee the problems we might have and I don't see any sense now to having this restriction when the people gave this body the opportunity to spread these contracts over as many years as they want to in their judgement. Now Senator Marvel in the past has been opposed to removing this restriction. If he has any objection now I hope he will state it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel, do you care to respond?

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Warner may want to respond too because it's his bill originally that made the change, I think. I've been trying to read this bill. Originally, well first of all, let me make the point. I think the Constitution has been changed so that we can appropriate for more than one year at a time. That was done last election. So as far as that's concerned, on buildings or on other projects, we can appropriate more than one year at a time which in effect as I understand is what this bill does. I think maybe what I need to do is make one other statement and then I'd like to ask Senator Carpenter two or three questions and see what the real impact of this bill seems to be. We got into a mess in this state by appropriating, as I recall \$400,000 to Kearney, which was supposed to be for part of a building. What they did was to build the shell. The whole building and then in effect tied us up so that we had to proceed to build the rest of the building without the authority. Now can you, can you give me, Senator Carpenter, some examples of what you think this bill would do to improve the planning for buildings over a two or three year period that we can't now do? Do you have something specific in mind?

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, would you care to respond?

SENATOR CARPENTER: As I understand, and I only get this from the papers, that the budget on capital construction is going to recommend about \$16 million for improvement to the University of Omaha and Lincoln. Let's presume that's correct, whether it is or not is immaterial. Then we could spread the payments of that \$16 million rather than one year with the present law says, if you are going to start any one of them you have to have enough money on hand before you start any one of them. If in the judgment of this Legislature, you want to start them all, then you could spread the payment and the contract over as long a period of time as you wanted to. Let's say you spread it over 5 years and just as a generalization you could take 5 years, say it cost \$15 million. Well, if you spread it over 5 years you would have to appropriate \$3 million each year when obviously you're going to have to appropriate the \$15 million it's going to be very difficult to come by. Now