

March 25, 1974

SENATOR MARVEL: Well, the...if I understand your question correctly, you are asking specifically whether under the Department of Public Institutions the jurisdiction of the Mental Health Program and the Nebraska Veterans Home is under the same people. Is this your question?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes.

SENATOR MARVEL: The answer is yes.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Would we have an opportunity to review

(End Belt #1A)

(Start Belt #2A)

these...this as Senators every year. You're talking about a program in a five-year, which I've been quite interested in northeast Nebraska, and as you well know. We would have an opportunity to review any program that might be provided. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR MARVEL: Now, if you will go back to page 4, Senator Kennedy. Lines 21 through 25, you will find that we refer to a five-year long-range plan, which means that they ought to put themselves on the line to tell us, and the people generally what they propose to do, and in what direction they propose to go during the next five years. But included in the five-year plan is a specific one-year plan, which means that we will review this each year. And, in other words, they won't simply give a five-year program, a five-year plan, and then disappear as far as the accountability is concerned for the next four years. They are supposed to come in, this indicates whether the specific one-year plan, each year. And this includes as indicated on the bottom of page 4, to mental health, mental retardation, blind rehabilitation, and the Nebraska Veterans Home. All of them.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Now, while we are on that subject. I'd like to ask again. Would it be feasible, and I have been working in the past six years that I've been here to see that the community as well as the institution, the Regional Center and the Veterans were more or less all represented. But it seems like we have a little problem in communication. Would it be feasible that a State Senator representing that particular district, and again asking the assistance of other State Senators, would it be feasible for me to gather those groups as a State Senator and see that we had some coordination in the five-year plan, and then bring that back to the Legislature if necessary.

SENATOR MARVEL: Well, I think what this idea does is first of all, pin point in some legislation the fact that each one of these departments in this case we're talking about DPI, the