

February 25, 1976

those that oppose it lets not do it with some kind of innuendo. Lets get the cards out there. My mother said that you are either for or against it. I'm for it. If you are against it lets say so and lets not talk about some of the other things. This is not a jump up move, a "quicky" part. This is a bill that has been before the legislature for two years. It has been studied from the north, south, east, west, the top, the bottom, the inside and the outside. I support Senator Rumery's motion to put it on and I think that it is the posture of the Legislature that this is a project that we wanted. I think that we ought to use the necessary mechanisms now to carry out the intent of what this Legislature said one year ago.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of Senator Rumery's project here. For example, you will hear a lot today on this project about the program statement. As you all know we fully approved this project last year when for example it was discovered that the word "purchase, lease-purchase" was used in the previous legislation and the Attorney General said that is binding the state and consequently you can not do that and that is the purpose of 634 for example is rewriting the same legislation but dropping the word purchase and making it just lease. We all know for example that the state is going to end up owning the building at the end of the ten year period. But, in the meantime we are leasing the building. Now, the other day this subject came up and I promised Senator Rumery and three or four members of the Legislature that I would help Senator Rumery get the program statement drafted. It is in the process of being drafted. It is not here yet, but it is in the process of being drafted and should be here before this bill gets off Select File anyhow. I would suggest that this project, since we know all about it, we know what it is, we have previously appropriated, I would suggest that we go ahead and appropriate it again, and let Senator Rumery proceed with his project. Thank you.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Members of the Legislature, Mr. President, I think that this is an inappropriate time for this amendment to come in. I think that we need to understand as much as possible about the building that were proposing to acquire in North Platte. I am not opposed to the State Office Building that Senator Rumery mentioned to you on the floor the other day. I have directed a study which indicated that there was a need for a State Office Building in North Platte. In private conversations with Senator Rumery I have told him that I am willing to co-sponsor a bill to appropriate one and a half million dollars for a new state office building in North Platte. I have substantial reservations whether or not we should be rehabilitating the St. Marys Hospital in North Platte because of its location and because of its structure and because of the cost involved. I think that we ought to hear the full story, the full cost of renovation as best we can determine it before we approve this bill. North Platte needs a State Office Building. The only question is should we be buying this particular hospital for conversion into a State Office