

March 4, 1980

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of problems not the least of which is that the program in Douglas County has been discontinued in terms of education for these juveniles and Lancaster County is anticipating a discontinuance of that educational program in Lancaster County following this fiscal year. So we are talking about a situation starting this summer and it has already started in Omaha where juveniles placed in detention homes will have absolutely no education whatsoever while they are in that home. They will not be provided the benefits of all other individuals in this state of their age, and we have looked at the matter and surveyed other states and found that 85 percent of them, plus, take responsibility for the education of wards of the state in courts. This is our responsibility. It has been recognized in other states, and this bill is a bill that deals with the problem that we have in the counties during the past year and would hopefully rectify that problem. The bill was advanced 8 to nothing by the Education Committee. It is supported by the Douglas County Board, the Lancaster County Board, the Lincoln Public Schools, the Omaha Public Schools, the State Board of Education, Legislative Task Force and a number of juvenile court judges and other individuals who have been concerned about this problem. It has strong support. It is a necessary bill and I urge your support for it's adoption.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb, did you wish to talk on the bill?

SENATOR LAMB: I only wanted to comment, Mr. Chairman, that without this bill we will be placing a burden on the more populous areas of the state, such as Omaha and Lincoln, by these...in educating these wards of the court. That is unfair and I believe the state should assume this burden. I support the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any further discussion? Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. Chairman, I heard something that I am not sure that I understand completely. It scared me quite a bit and I need to know more about this bill now.

SENATOR CLARK: Could we have a little quiet, please?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Lamb, can you answer a question for me, Senator Lamb? That was a tremendous speech.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you.