

May 15, 1985

LB 722

a year's period to 1,400 clients, seven times the number of people are served for roughly \$60,000 more. I think that the...and this is only one case. This is only a social setting detox in Omaha that I happen to be familiar with. I think the program at Hastings is a very good program...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...but I think it's also a very expensive program. I oppose the Smith amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm going to rise in opposition to the amendment offered by Senator Jackie Smith and I'm going to rise in opposition to the amendment...

PRESIDENT: You have to speak into the microphone.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Well, I'm going to speak into it. I'll look at it and speak into it, just really talk sweet to it.

PRESIDENT: Caress it.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Caress it. I rise in opposition to Senator Jackie Smith's amendment and I do that because I have an abiding belief that we need to allow the executive branch the leeway to make programmatic shifts and budget changes so that programmatic shifts and budget changes can be effected. I've been down here a long time and I have discovered that every time the administration decides that for one good reason or another a particular state institution should be closed or should be altered or its mission should be altered, that the townspeople who are affected by that kind of a change rise up in arms, galvanize their state senator to come forth and oppose the executive branch change. And the upshot almost always is that the executive branch change is not done. And so we as a government just become moribund. We're just inflexible, we're like we're stuck in concrete because we can't really make change. All we can do is we can add. We can say, well, we probably ought to have a new facility over in this area, but we really can't close an old facility because to close an old facility is going to offend the townspeople and in addition cause that state senator to work the Legislature