

March 21, 1979

LB 267

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I move for the advancement of the bill with a short explanation. LB 267 is a bill which would create a commission to study the possibility or the feasibility of consolidating the Department of Roads, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Aeronautics and any other rail or water transportation systems into a Department of Transportation for the State of Nebraska. The reasons for this kind of a study is to determine, one, whether or not there is some support for this, whether there is some benefit that can be derived either in terms of cost savings or additional activities that might be housed in one area which provide for greater planning of facilities and better organizational types of activities. I asked for a commission instead of trying to just move the bill along because I think that this kind of an approach, while it has been tried in many states and it has been proven very successful in those states, is one of those things that really needs to be proposed and analyzed ahead of time. Basically I have discussed this with the Governor and the Governor is supportive of this kind of approach. Under this bill the Governor will, in fact, appoint a twelve member commission. Three of them will be a department from government itself, six will be public members, three will be from groups that are served by these departments, in other words, the rail industry or the trucking industry or the airlines and airport industry and so forth. This commission then would report back by December 31st, excuse me, by December 1st of 1980, to the full Legislature as to the feasibility of such consolidation of activities. Now my personal thought is and if I can just second guess whatever this commission might do for a second, is that it may, in fact, come up with a proposal that all these areas ought to be housed together, that there ought to be one person who is over all and maybe having divisions which keep the generic individuality of these departments. But I think we need to study this. We have some problems. We do not in Nebraska coordinate our transportation system well and for that reason 267 will help look and advise both the Legislature and the Governor of this state as to the merits of such sort of actions, so thank you.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I would like to make a short statement too and by then the time ought to be up. Seriously, Senator Newell, in section 6 you make reference to the State Office