

March 29, 1979

LB 101

a problem and we say, gee, I wish I didn't have that problem. I wish I had something else. It is just like if I would ask you this question. What would you rather have, an earache, a toothache or a stomach-ache? Well, you wouldn't want any of the three but if you did have one of the three you would do all in your power to alleviate the ailments that come along with that discomfort. Well, the same is true with the deaf. You know there is probably nothing worse than being deaf. I would suspect that if there is anything it is probably being blind. I understand this legislation fairly well. I understand we are creating another layer of government bureaucracy. We don't need that anymore, ladies and gentlemen. We don't need that because every time we do that it costs money. You know I have vowed that when I first ran for the Legislature that I would screen every bill, every bill that had a fiscal note with a fine toothed comb and I have tried all in my power to do just that. I have done that with this bill. This bill deserves your vote of confidence. This bill deserves immediate attention to get across the board as quickly as possible and for those very reasons, Senator Labedz, I rise to support your bill. I am becoming a little bit concerned because I understand now that there is going to be a theater of arts created in this state and it is going to cost the taxpayers. It is going to cost this Legislature, because we are taxpayers, \$6,000,000. That is a lot of money but if we are going to prioritize, ladies and gentlemen, let's start now and let's look at some of these pieces of legislation that deserve the merit that this particular piece of legislation does.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kelly. The Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis. Senator Kelly is coming first and then Frank Lewis.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Nebraska Legislature, how delightful that LB 101 would come up today after yesterday. The Nebraska Legislature showed its compassion on deafness by gutting a bill on Workmen's Comp and inserting one handicap. Deafness, new in Nebraska in the Workmen's Comp field, deafness is now a total disability just as blindness would be. We are getting up to date in River City and LB 101 is a bill for services to people that has been delayed way too long and in this particular area of service to our deaf people. We have just been inadequate. Vote for 101. Here is a chance to continue the compassion we started yesterday in handling the problems for the deaf people. Thank you very much, Bernice, for this leadership