

involved in hearings in various parts, in Lincoln and in Omaha, to see what the people are telling us, the senior citizens, and that was one of their chief concerns to have better transportation especially in certain areas. These people want to be able to live in their own homes and to do this many of them that can't drive need public transportation to be able to get to the grocery stores, to buy their clothes, in other words to lead a normal life. This bill was one of the priority bills that the silver-haired legislators passed during...I think it was in October when they held their session. It was LB 8 and this is patterned after their bill and I have a letter from Alvin Peterson who was a member of this body. He says, "I am a member of the twelve person"...he is also a member of the delegation to the White House Conference on Aging. "We have held five public hearings across the state and have four hearings remaining. The first five were in Omaha and Lincoln, Norfolk, Beatrice and Kearney. The four yet to be held are at Grand Island, North Platte, Alliance and Ainsworth." That was at that time on February 4th. "As you may recall at the hearing on LB 144 last week I referred to these hearings which we have had so far as a delegation of five communities. At each of these the need for transportation for the elderly was mentioned over and over again, less frequently in Omaha and Lincoln but five times in Norfolk, twenty times in Beatrice and nine times in Kearney, and these requests were principally for outlying communities where facilities are not available. Those who have access to transportation have emphasized its importance. LB 144 should be passed. Why? #1. The elderly have no means of transportation...need to get to nutrition centers...go grocery shopping...for medical care...and social functions and so forth. #2. Just to get out of the home to be with peers gives them something to look forward to each day, lifts their moral and keeps them active in the community. #3. In the long run and this can be substantiated, to be able to have these home services postpones the need for being in nursing homes, a considerable savings especially if the end result is welfare. LB 144 is a priority bill proposed by the silver-haired Unicameral. After regional hearings and debated by the silver-haired Unicameral, it is hoped that your committee will vote to have LB 144 considered by the Nebraska Unicameral and finally adopted. There are 185 persons in Nebraska over the age of 60 years, the majority in rural areas. The number is growing each year. These elderly probably have the highest voting record of any age and deserve to have their opinion heard and their needs met." The bill provides that the Department of Roads would help with these transportation problems and the statement to the committee reads, "An exemption from the Public