

March 30, 1981

LB 317

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the amendment in the Journal represents an effort on my part to attempt to correct a problem that I have with the regional governing system. We have had cases in our area in my legislative district in one of the regions and I represent an area which includes parts of three regions. But in this one particular region we have had a problem in that the people in the far end of the region feel that they do not get the proper services from the region, and in a situation like that, as you may have found and as I have found, there really is no method of recourse. There is no place to go. If the regional governing board which consists of 22 persons from 22 separate counties are not sympathetic to the problem in this one area, you are just stuck. The Director of the Department of Institutions has no authority over what happens in the region. No one else has any authority and since a 22 county area is not really a local, what you can really call a local subdivision, it is very frustrating for people to really get the services to which they feel that they are entitled. So the amendment to this bill, and it is very similar to another bill which I have, LB 183, is an attempt to give the Director of the Department some authority in those particular cases. Now, as I mentioned, LB 183 is also an effort in this same direction. The Public Health Committee has decided that LB 183 should be held for an interim study this summer. I concur in that decision, and I am hopeful that some method will be found which will not destroy the regional system as we have now, but will give some sort of oversight to some other body or person, such as the Director of the Department of Institutions, so that in those cases where there is a legitimate complaint that there is some recourse in those situations. So with the assurance from the Public Health Committee that this subject will be explored this summer and not wanting to delay the proceedings here and particularly the Education Committee's bill, LB 317, I will ask that the amendments be withdrawn.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb, you were withdrawing the amendments, right?

SENATOR LAMB: Yes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay. Hearing no objection, so ordered. Senator Haberman. Senator Cope. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to say that in response to the Lamb