

April 8, 1981

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SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, and particularly Senator Wesely, now I think you have been hanging around M.G. a little bit too much and I think you know who I am talking about, but I will let that go. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think this Legislature has got to stop this ridiculous desire that we have to find some big connection and some big thought behind everything. The reason the Norfolk bill didn't reach the floor is because there were three votes in committee, and I don't think that the people who were not going to support closing the Norfolk Center and the Public Health and Welfare Committee made any trade. Now Senator Wesely, let's just make it very simple. If you had stuck to your original position on saving two and a half million dollars for the State of Nebraska and closing the Norfolk Center, it probably would have been closed. It would have been out here on the floor if you had stuck to the position that you assumed early. But you reversed yourself and maybe you had some legitimate reasons to do that. I personally don't think so, because I think it should have been closed. But I didn't make any deal with anybody. I don't think anybody in the Public Health and Welfare Committee made any deals, and that's where the two issues stopped and any other agreements that you may see are I think just purely ridiculous. But back to the issue. The issue is a good government issue. The issue is whether the Governor of the State of Nebraska is going to have the responsibility and the authority to run the executive branch, or whether we are going to isolate the elected representative of the people from state government by setting up this commission and these boards so that the Governor has no significant authority or responsibility and cannot effectuate his policies. It's that simple. Do you want to continue along the path of isolating the Governor, of isolating bureaucrats from the political process? Then do that. But the logical conclusion in extending that political philosophy across state government means that the Governor sets over there with nothing but veto power over the Legislature and budgetary responsibility. It means that he can't hire and fire anybody. It means that he can't operate state government. And if it is good philosophy for the Department of Health, why isn't it good for institutions? Why isn't it good for Welfare? Why isn't it good for agriculture? Why isn't it good for banking? If that's the philosophy we have, then we might as well set up all these commissions and boards and isolate everything from politics so that the people can't have any control and the bureaucrats can run everything. That's the issue. I urge you to advance

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