

April 28, 1981

LB 404

SENATOR VICKERS: Is 404, Senator Fowler, then, in fact, mirroring the federal guidelines to some degree as far as putting it into Nebraska statutes, some of the guidelines that the federal government requires right now? Is that correct?

SENATOR FOWLER: It is close to the federal process. The budget cycle is different because the state budget cycle is different. It requires a little more advance planning than the current system does. It requires to think a little further ahead than the federal funding formula and I think that is sound.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay then, if the federal government would withdraw more funds next year or the following year, then we would have to make the decision on the state level as to whether to fund the program called for under 404 and the control over that funding and the control over those agencies as far as minimum standards and so forth are concerned would be with the state agency. Right?

SENATOR FOWLER: We would establish a minimum standards. They would write a plan. We would decide whether to fund it.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay. Thank you, Senator Fowler. I am going to support LB 404. There are some areas in my district that have done a very good job in providing senior citizens services and I think it is important that those services be provided on the local level with the assistance from the state as much as possible. Having had a father that spent a good many years in a rest home....

SENATOR NICHOL: Half a minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...I can tell you it is much cheaper to put a few dollars from the state or the local level into the types of programs that we have out there in some areas of the State of Nebraska right now than it is to force those people to go into a rest home type situation. Plus the fact it is much more...it is much better for the individuals. They feel much better about themselves and I think we should allow our senior citizens to keep as much dignity in their later years as possible. I would support LB 404 for those reasons.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Senate, I did not get all my mail together but somebody is misspeaking