

May 4, 1981

LB 346

would just remind the body that the changes that are being made is in 346, not by the amendment that Senator Schmit and I are offering. The amendment that Senator Schmit and I are offering will put it back...the system back in the way it operates right now. So if you are concerned about change, I would think you would be concerned about not adopting the amendment to LB 346. The change Senator Nichol says needs a hearing. Well, if you will look in your bill book, and he also indicated that he wondered what the judges thought, if you will notice in the bill book, there were a couple of judges from rural Nebraska that came in in opposition to 346 and my office has been in contact with some of those judges and the sections that Senator Schmit and I are attempting to amend are the reasons that those judges opposed 346. They think that the system should stay as it is. So I just simply point out to the body that if you are concerned about last minute changes, as Senator Nichol pointed out, then adopt the amendment because we are not changing anything with the amendment. We are putting it back like it was.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I sympathize with Senator Nichol's defense of the bill and I am sure he understands it better than I do. I wish that I did understand it as well as he does but I can tell you very frankly that the bill is not just a minor bill and as I read the bill it provides some substantive changes, and as Senator Vickers has pointed out, if you don't like all that much change, then you would have to support the Schmit and Vickers amendment. I think we are going to find difficulties in many areas if we delineate the problem as Senator Nichol has pointed out here and not allow the judges some discretion. I know that we could be concerned about the federal funds, I don't know about that, I think we are more concerned in our counties about the availability of the property tax money that is going to be there to take care of these problems. I know that my county boards have complained to me vigorously and upon many occasions that we mandate certain actions by those county boards and we also tell them to live under a certain kind of a lid, and then we come right back and say, okay, you are going to have to provide the counsel for both the children and the parents. You are going to have to provide transportation for that young man or woman to Kearney and back and these costs all have to be borne by the county. Now I am not so sure how much federal money we are going to get out of this. Perhaps Senator Nichol can refer to it. In fact, I would like to ask Senator Nichol a question at the present time. Senator Nichol, how much federal money are we talking about