

May 8, 1981

LB 404

the testimony that we heard in the interim study that we had justifies a certain delay in this area, and I think that Senator Cullan and the Health and Welfare Committee can use this opportunity to take a second look at the issue and look at the change. But if there needs to be a date for a transition, I would suggest that rather than some date this coming September with the operative date of the bill that we delay it as Senator Cullan suggests. So I support Senator Cullan's amendment to the Warner amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Carsten. Senator Rumery, on the Cullan amendment. Senator Nichol, on the Cullan amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this was at a hearing and I am opposed to the Cullan amendment and for the Warner amendment. The reason for it is simple. When this thing comes to a hearing, it is easy for the Commission on Aging members to fan out and get a few members of the Aging to come flying in and say, oh, we are going to lose our Aging programs. We don't want to lose our Aging program. It isn't explained to them what really happens. Last fall we had a problem out in the Panhandle, couldn't get solved. What was happening? Weren't paying the bills. I think I mentioned it on the floor. Couldn't get the bills paid. Raised heck with the Commission on Aging boss man. No solution. Raised heck with the Governor. He said he can't do anything, it's in the hands of the Commission. The Commissioners wouldn't listen to you. There wasn't anybody to put your finger on, you couldn't. And I submit to you that within the next few days you are going to get in a lot of lobbying from the elderly suggesting that you support the Cullan amendment and oppose the Warner amendment. It is easy for those in power to foist it onto the rest of us whether it is true or not. And I kind of feel sorry for the aging sitting out there believing what they are fed. So I think it is high time that we get that Director under the direct supervision of the Governor so we can at least put our finger on somebody to say, let's get something done rather than sitting here unable to be doing anything. I oppose the Cullan amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support Senator Cullan's amendment. In the past, oh I would say four or five days, I have spoken to a lot of the elderly and several people from the nutrition sites and they are very anxious for LB 404 to be advanced and be passed this session.