

May 8, 1981

LB 404

can't be passed. You won't be going to a bureaucracy. You will be going to one person, the Governor of the state be he Democrat or Republican. He is going to be responsible as to what happens to the Commission of the Aging. Are they being taken care of? Is it growing? Is it being run properly? The Silverhaired Unicameral and everybody else will have one person to go to and one person responsible and I feel that this is very important. It takes the bureaucracy end of it clear out. We can still have our study on the directors and on the Senior Citizens Board. My input from my senior citizens has been that it's like a flock of quail. We really are just kind of floundering around and be he...and we would like to have somebody that is on top and is responsible. Before I say, please vote for it, I would like to make a correction that this person who is directly responsible be he or she is the Governor of the State of Nebraska and I ask you to support the amendment, be it he or she. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: No displays from now on, Senator Haberman. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I get somewhat discouraged by our actions because we have had very few problems with this Commission. We have had maybe one isolated incident that Senator Nichol talked about. But why do we want to take this drastic action and suddenly believe that by a patronage job that we are going to get a better director, that the Commission that serves the people we are talking about will be any more effective. Occasionally as I watch politics I am rather amused by the fact that each party has its patronage committee, so when these nice cushy jobs come around that you reward certain people for good and faithful service rather than for their ability to administer a program that this body appropriates money for the purpose of carrying out the role and mission. If this body is serious about this, then I think it properly should go through a public hearing and then we make a determination. But until that time, I am not willing to say that the Governor can solve all the problems simply because he can appoint people to take over the Executive Director's position when the Commission might hire an individual who has demonstrated the qualifications. It always reminds me of an issue I had before me once on a hearing. It was on a parole board member. Our law says that before you appoint a member to the State Parole Board, you shall be of judicious temperament. That means that almost anyone walking the streets of Nebraska could be a member of the Parole Board and yet we all know that person should have the

4839