

May 11, 1981

LB 548

do to the inmates in our institutions, they practice on them. Sure they do. There is no direct science that says you can cure the ailments of mankind. They work on us in different ways. I just feel that we are making a big mistake. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I, also, want to rise to make a little bit of a statement into the record. Senator Wiitala indicated his feelings in this regard. He indicated that those with a conscience needed to vote for the advancement of 548. I am going to tell you quite honestly I am going to vote for the advancement of 548 because there is some necessary claims in that bill that need to be paid and it was the decision of the majority of this body that Joe Soukup's claim should be part of those. Therefore, I will vote for the advancement. But I think for the record it needs to be stated, I serve on that committee and we are being asked, as I said earlier, to be judge and jury. Mr. Soukup's attorneys came before us, and as you will notice in the description that Senator Maresh sent around, there were many allegations made, many things that supposedly happened, including the LSD, including being held against his will and many other things, and we heard from that one side of the issue but we didn't hear from the other side. The doctor that supposedly administered the LSD, as I understand it, is dead. That is very good, He cannot defend himself. I don't know whether he is guilty or not. I don't know personally whether the state is guilty or not. As Senator DeCamp pointed out a little bit ago, there has been so many studies as a result of this and I think there is a lot of good things that come from it. I will remind this body that if you have a child that you mistakenly correct, perhaps spank for something that you found out later that the child did not do, buying the child a bag of jelly beans does not make everything right. Trying to work and listen to the child more closely next time so that doesn't happen is what is the best positive action that can come from that. I think what we are trying to do is to save our conscience by putting some dollars to a gentleman that may or may not be mistreated by the State of Nebraska but I believe, as a member of that committee, we should have heard from both sides before we made that decision but I am going to vote for the advancement of 548 because I think there is enough good in the bill and I think that the majority of this body has indicated that Joe Soukup should be paid so, therefore, the majority should rule. But I do think that the body needs to be aware of exactly what we are doing. Thank you, Mr. President.