

May 11, 1981

LB 548

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Maresh, did you want to talk on it?

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, I, too, will vote for advancing the bill but I think on Select File we should take another look and we have a whole file on this case and anybody that has doubts about the amount we should pay, if it should be lowered down to \$30,000 or not, well, you are welcome to come and see the file. We will make copies for you if you are interested in reading more about this case. Senator Vickers says we haven't heard from the other side but we did hear from a nurse that was at the regional center at that time and she wrote, "Dear Senator Maresh: I am writing about LB 548, and particularly one person named in that bill for compensation, namely, Joe Soukup. I believe if his claim is recognized the State of Nebraska will be setting a precedent for perhaps thousands of claims. I remember electric shock treatments were particularly cited as damaging him. I am sure that thousands of people in Nebraska have received shock treatments, not only in the Regional Center but all private hospitals in Nebraska. As a nurse I have assisted with as many as twenty-five shock treatments a day and many of these in private city hospitals. Shock treatments were recognized as effective in large mental hospitals as Menningers. As you remember from Joe's history, he was cared for at Boys Town and was sent from there to Kearney Boys Training School. Boys Town goes the third mile with their youth so you know there was a reason they did not keep him. I believe Joe also complained of neglected physical problems but I can assure you this was also untrue. I was a nurse who assisted the doctors with the clinics for the patients physical care. These clinics were held every afternoon from one to five and patients were brought from all the buildings who had any physical complaints. I often remarked that I wished we people who have to have private care could get appointments half as promptly as our patients in the Regional Center care. I know Joe well and I feel that if he receives compensation then every patient who has ever been in a hospital is entitled to compensation. I wanted to be sure of my feelings so while I was in Phoenix this winter I visited with the nurse who was supervisor of the building where he lived at the Regional Center. She has the same feelings about him. Please consider the impact this may have on taxpayers of Nebraska if this claim is recognized." And I will not read the name. If anybody wants to have her name, they are welcome to come and see the letter. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.