

January 12, 1982

LB 490

bill and I would strongly urge your opposition to the advancement of LB 490.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker, members, I do support 490. It is a bill that I think really kind of clarifies a little bit of a problem in that the Fire Marshal is in one place and the Electrical Division is another. I talked to Wally Barnett. He feels like it would actually be a move in a definite and positive direction. I don't really see where it'd create a great problem, therefore I support the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support LB 490 and to some that may be a surprise. But I think that Senator Wesely made some excellent arguments in favor of this bill, even though they were directed in opposition to the bill. I think Senator Wesely's argument is that really they don't have anything to do with each other. One of the problems, frankly, that we heard is that the Fire Marshal, because of the tactic or basic, being a basic umbrella operation has to approve a number of decisions that they make and that creates for time delays and so forth. Senator Wesely says there really isn't a heck of a lot of tying together of the two operations but we have decided that bigger is better. We have decided that not only is bigger better but you must push things together whether they belong together or not because that gives us coordination. Well, frankly, you know I have been distressed over the years and I once actually believed that philosophy myself. I was trying to develop a human services agency, a broad, broad umbrella, that would bring a whole lot of human services agencies together because I knew that by doing this we would get coordination, we would get unity. But you know the Governor has proposed, and I think wisely so, that the person who is in charge of policy, basically a policy level person, John Knight deals with and tries to coordinate these various disparate social agencies. Now he doesn't have to have absolute control over these agencies. He does not have to have total consolidation of these agencies. In fact he is finding some success just to be able to talk to the directors and look at it from a policy, overall policy view, and for that reason on the social service areas there is some benefit to at least having someone who tries to coordinate policy among the various independent directors and agencies. In this case, however, there is no coordination. There is no policy setting. There is nothing