

March 19, 1982

LB 522

head that that money that is in 816 is what is going to be used to fund LB 522. That is the reason I think you are premature in voting on it today. I think that this should be put together so we determine whether the issue is the money or whether it is the control or whether it is neither. I would like to answer Senator Cullan a little bit, he was a little sharp on me because he doesn't like it that I voted the other day to...for an amendment that would put...take over the funding of the welfare program at the same time that the state took over the control. Well that is only one step of the program. I certainly couldn't have accepted it if the state hadn't taken over the funding at the same time they take over the control. So we differ a little bit on that. Senator Cullan is a little bit unhappy because he wanted to close down the Norfolk Regional Center last year and also do a lot of things with the mental health program which haven't happened. Our mental health program is going to be in awful shape out-state if we continue to take this attitude. So, I think my reason for doing this is just as honorable as the one he has.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: I don't believe, I shouldn't say this because I know Senator Johnson's wife teaches school out in Kearney and he does know something about distance. But I believe that most people in this body do not realize the distances that are involved for our people to get to the center. I would guess that in my own area if we had a regional welfare center it would be in Grand Island or Hastings or Kearney. I guess it would be in Grand Island. It would take in a good number of counties in that area, some of them which would be at least 150 to 175 miles from the center of that hub. The people that you are asking to make that kind of a trip, even if you bring the service out there, it is going to be very expensive. It is just different than it is in the cities of Omaha and Lincoln and even our larger cities because they could go to the welfare office any day of the week, anytime they want to.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: With that I just hope that you defeat this issue today.

PRESIDENT: For a . . . Senator Johnson you or Senator Cullan, which one will close? Is Senator Cullan going to close? Are you going to take part of it, Senator Cullan, and . . .