

April 6, 1982

LB 761

reconsideration motion?

SENATOR CLARK: No, this is a different stage of debate. This is not a reconsideration.

SENATOR HEFNER: It is not a reconsideration? Okay, thank you. Well, I still oppose it but I am a good friend of Senator Clark, but as the Program 035 in LB 761 now stands we have \$500,000 available for the continued movement of the Beatrice State Developmental Center residents to the community based programs, or the second part, we have this half a million dollars there to place persons from community waiting lists into community based services and I think we ought to leave it there. And I guess my question is today, why not allow some flexibility in utilization or the judgment on the basis of need and resources. This amendment, this amendment, if we adopt it, would leave only approximately \$100,000 in this fund. The \$250,000 that is in the fund now will be committed or spent or will be used up by the end of our fiscal year. The regional budgets were approved by the Appropriations Committee and I am real surprised that some members of the Appropriations Committee are sponsoring this amendment again because they approved the amendment that was given to us in the first place. Why change at the eleventh hour? If we go below the \$500,000 in this fund we may risk, we may risk court intervention in view of the approved plan of implementation, and I think I talked more about that last Thursday. DPI submitted a proposed budget of \$1 million for this fund but the Governor came back with a recommendation of \$500,000 and then the Appropriations Committee approved that recommendation, and I say to you here today, let's keep it at \$500,000. The group behind this is the Nebraska ARC. They are pushing this amendment and you know why? It is because they want more, they want more money into the regional programs, and I say, let's not put all of our money in our regional programs, let's leave some in our fund so that the private sector can bid for their share of this money. I don't believe that we should let the fiscal practices of the regions control the appropriate utilization of other services in future planning. The national trend toward utilization of the private sector is becoming more evident. We want them to become more active. Why not utilize this private sector here in Nebraska? I feel that the private sector in Nebraska is doing a good job. They are giving high quality service and their prices are competitive. This fiscal year the budget of \$750,000 for this fund and they are going to use all of it. Now all that I am asking is that we keep \$500,000 in this fund so I urge you to defeat this amendment.

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