

March 5, 1996

LB 1044

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...then I think you have a different attitude and a different dynamic that for those who really don't want this change will work against in ways we can't even envision at this time to see that the change doesn't succeed. That's my concern. I think the other message is if we go in January is that we're committed, we are ready for this change, we want to see it happen, now work with us to get it done. You who are the public, you who are the employees, you who are the providers involved, you across the spectrum of Nebraska, who have an interest in this, work with us to make this a success. And it's that second step that's so vital to all this because you can rename agencies, you can shuffle around the top administration fairly easily, that can be done by January of next year. The hard work will be making the systems integrate, making all the pieces fit together so the puzzle becomes a picture that's clear to all of us and one that is a positive one for the state of Nebraska. So, again, I understand the concerns, but I think it's very important, in more ways in symbolism, but at least in symbolism, that we move forward with the...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...January date. I oppose the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Further discussion on the Beutler amendment, Senator Klein followed by Dierks, Wehrbein, Withem, Beutler, and Wesely. Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members. I rise to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment. I'll use his very same reason that he did, it's the faith in the new management and the new management wants the time table to stay where it's at. State employees very easily could put this thing off. If they're working now, the progress is happening, if we give them a six month reprieve it's just going to call a halt to it. Besides that they need to get their biennium budget done and have it in, in time. So for that reason I oppose it. I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Withem.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Withem, you have about four minutes.