

January 11, 1989

LB 341-372
LR 3, 5

able to assist other agencies, other investigating committees, other individuals who are involved. I have pledged my cooperation to some of them with whom I have visited. I know that Senator Chambers feels the same way. I know that other members of the committee feel the same way. I hope that we are all pursuing the same goals, same objectives and that we can work together. I want to say again that this committee will act with propriety, honesty and integrity. We intend to obtain the best counsel we possibly can and we intend to protect the rights of the innocent and to pursue those who might have been less than innocent. Mr. President and members, I ask for a positive vote on the resolution.

PRESIDENT: That was the closing. The question is the adoption of the resolution. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of LR 5.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. You have some new bills, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. New bills. Mr. President, Senator Labedz would like to have a meeting of the Reference Committee now in the Senate Lounge. Referencing Committee in the Senate Lounge, Mr. President, right now. Senate Lounge for Referencing Committee. New bills. (Read by title for the first time LBs 341-355 as found on pages 183-87 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: We will be at ease for a few minutes for referencing and receiving a few more bills.

EASE

PRESIDENT: (Microphone not activated) and capable of transacting business. I propose to sign and do sign LR 3. Would you like to continue, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, thank you. New bills. (Read by title for the first time LBs 356-372 as found on pages 187-91 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, I have a new resolution offered by Senator Hall.

February 16, 1989 LB 154, 290, 363, 659, 723

SENATOR CROSBY: So it still leaves it with the city?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Absolutely, absolutely.

SENATOR CROSBY: Okay, I wanted to be sure.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Absolutely, that remains with them and they want more control and that is why they offered this.

SENATOR CROSBY: So this helps them control that better? This helps the cities?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes.

SENATOR CROSBY: I was reading through, I just wanted to be sure...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Um-huh.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...of my feeling. Thank you.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Surely. Thank you.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Hall. Senator Pirsch, do you waive closing on the advancement of LB 154? Senator Pirsch waives closing. All those in favor of the advancement of LB 154 vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please vote. We're asking for a little cooperation from the members of the Legislature. Please vote. Mr. Clerk, record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of 154.

SENATOR LABEDZ: LB 154 is advanced. Mr. Clerk, do you have something to read in before we adjourn?

CLERK: Madam President, I do. Your Committee on Health and Human Services, whose Chair is Senator Wesely, to whom was referred LB 290, instructs me to report the same back to the Legislature with the recommendation it be advanced to General File with amendments; LB 363, General File with amendments; LB 659, General File with amendments; LB 723, General File with amendments, all those signed by Senator Wesely as Chair. (See

department is going to need resources, not only for screening but for services, and the feds have said it and I don't know what choice we really have. But to deal with the overcrowding problem and the overall situation, there are a couple of other alternatives we need to look at. One is the EPC concept, emergency protective custody. And, as we talked about earlier, we have now put a little bit of money into community based programs to help alleviate the problem of individuals that are now being jailed, moving them into a setting as the mentally ill need and get assistance on an emergency protective custody basis. If we did more of that, it will free up space at the regional center. We have done that in Lincoln. We have put \$300,000 into an EPC unit in Lincoln. It has freed up beds in Lincoln where we never had beds before. If we set up, as we need to, EPC units around the State of Nebraska, we will then alleviate some of the overcrowding problems that the regional centers are suffering, whether they be in Hastings or Norfolk or, as we have seen already, in Lincoln. This will free up some beds and also serve the function of keeping the mentally ill out of jails and putting them into proper settings when they have the needs for that assistance. So, number one, we could do that. Now that will cost some money and we're going to offer an amendment to do that but that would help a bit with the problem. Secondly, we have an overcrowding problem at the regional centers because we don't have the community based programs for the mentally ill we should have. We have underfunded and ignored for too long the problems of the mentally ill in our communities. We have set them loose from our regional centers and then we have ignored their basic needs. We haven't provided a follow-up, backup service that they need, the housing assistance that they need. There is a bill, LB 363, again costing money but doing the proper thing in putting resources into community based programs, putting the resources in there, again alleviating the revolving door problem we have with individuals out of the regional center, into the community, without support services, having problems, going back to the regional centers, getting some help, going back out of the regional centers into the community, not having the support they need, coming back to the regional centers and again the cycle repeats itself. If you had the community...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...based programs in place as we have envisioned in this other bill, you wouldn't have that cycle.