WHEREAS, there are more than 3,000 children in substitute care (foster care) in the State of Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, these children are dependent upon state government agencies to provide services and facilities which support their growth and development, and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare has direct responsibility for the majority of such children, and

THEREFORE, as Governor, I hereby create the Governor's Task Force on Child Welfare.

PURPOSE: This Task Force is charged to perform the following duties:

(a) Advise the Governor on all child welfare matters affecting children in substitute care.

(b) Assist the Department of Public Welfare to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for Child Welfare to include programs, service delivery systems and information systems.

MEMBERSHIP: The Task Force shall be chaired by Eldin J. Ehrlich, Director, Department of Public Welfare, and shall be composed of the following individuals:

Jack Cleavenger, Director, Department of Public Institutions
Joseph Vitek, Director, Department of Correctional Services
Edwin Garrison, Administrator, State Probation Administration
Larry Tewes, Administrator, Parole Administration
Roger Lott, Executive Director, County Attorneys' Association
Honorable Judge Harry Haverly, Adams County
Harris Owens, Executive Director, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
William Janike, Lancaster County Separate Juvenile Court
Ruth Jorgensen, Chairperson, Nebraska Committee for Children and Youth
DUTIES: The Task Force shall, amongst others, perform the following activities:

(a) Provide monthly interim reports to the Governor.
(b) Define the scope of services needed for Nebraska children facing substitute care.
(c) Evaluate current programs and identify strengths and deficiencies.
(d) Plan a coordinated delivery system.
(e) Identify new programs and anticipated benefits.
(f) Design action plans.
(g) Define data requirements for the management information system.
(h) Submit a final report to the Governor by May 1, 1977.

OTHER AGENCIES: All State agencies, boards, and commissions are hereby requested and directed to cooperate fully with this Task Force. This Task Force shall receive reports, staff assistance, and program support from all State agencies and departments that have child-related responsibilities, activities, and interests.

The Department of Public Welfare shall provide staff support to the Task Force and advise the Task Force of the Department's activities.

The Director of Public Welfare shall immediately transmit a copy of this Order to the State Agencies and convene a meeting of all individuals concerned with the purposes set out herein.

WITNESS:

His Excellency, our Governor, J. James Exon, and our Seal hereto affixed, on the 12th day of January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Seven.

By the Governor:

By the Secretary of State: