

January 29, 1974

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Mr. President, and fellow members, I guess the majority of the time our committee does make decisions and as you remembered we held this bill for two weeks just recently trying to find if there was some objections. We went to the nursing homes, we went to the Hospital Association, we went to every possible place we visited with the health department and I think without a question that we must pass a bill and I said that before when we were holding it in here for bracketing to identify these nursing homes that have not been licensed. This bill, all it does, is give the types of nursing homes, hospitals and so forth some qualifications. Without a question, we needed the bill a year ago. I apologize to the different officials that have come to me because we have not passed it. I say, and I'm not worried a bit about the Revenue Department and their statement yesterday. I say lets pass LB513. If necessary the rules and regulations which we have a good stable hold of we are relying on the health department entirely to license correctly these places. Once it's trialed if there is an error, we will correct it. I do not think there is an error in the bill. I think we have had everybody look at it with a fine tooth comb. I hope we go ahead and pass it. I would object to having it bracketed again. We have had it there for two weeks, we had no official complaints.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, the motion is to bracket 50² on final reading for a week.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, I have a question for Senator Goodrich.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich yield? To a question Senator Goodrich? Yes.

SENATOR STAHMER: Yes, perhaps I missed something. I understand that the man from Revenue had some question. I didn't catch what his question and/or problem was. I would assume if it was a good question or big problem, maybe we should consider this, but I didn't catch what his complaint or problem was.

SENATOR GOODRICH: OK, the thing he was referring to was the tax exempt status of nursing homes in a say a community that wanted to form a non-profit organization to build or create a nursing home. The way we have handled the definition converts it from a non-profit status to a profit status which eliminates the tax exempt status on the sales tax and the income tax for a nursing home in the local community. For example, it was developed, even though it was developed by a non-profit organization. A church group or something like that that wanted to develop a nursing home in their community. They automatically wind up having a tax status even though they are a non-profit organization. Now, I have called for this man, Mr. Kelb, Kent Kelb is his name from the Revenue Department. I asked for him to come up here about a half hour ago, but he hasn't showed up yet. I was trying to get this ironed out before the bill got to Final Reading. I am not trying to kill this bill, I like the bill, it is a bill that we need, but all I say is let's get it right before we pass it and for that reason I see nothing wrong with holding it for a week until we get a chance to have Mr. Kelb from the Revenue Department come back in and talk to the Health Committee. Let's work out whatever amendments are necessary to achieve that end and then we can pass it.