

January 29, 1980

LB 525

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before the Chair recognizes Senator Marsh to speak on the motion, underneath the South balcony from Holdrege, it is my privilege to introduce John Anderson and Alvora Anderson, friends of Senator Kahle. They are from Senator Barrett's District. Where are you folks? Good morning. In the North balcony from Senator Warner's District 24 high school American Government class students and their teacher, Bob Hoyer, and Mr. Koivusaari. Where is Mr. Koivusaari or is it Miss Koivusaari? Miss. So may we welcome the visitors from Malcolm please. Miss Koivusaari is an exchange student. Now, Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise to support LB 525. When a group of persons under supervision constitute a family because they are living in a small group home with a small number of persons they should be in a residential area like other families. LB 525 also provides some safeguards for the community so that one does not have three or four such homes within a one block area. There is spacing provided, protection for spacing provided in LB 525. This has the best for both the community and the family who will live in a group home. I strongly urge your support for advancement of LB 525. This was very carefully drawn so that many safeguards are incorporated into the bill itself. This will provide for those who are mentally retarded, who can function in a family situation, and it is much easier to be part of a family when you are living in a residential section as other families are doing. Please help move LB 525 along its way.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair would remind you that we are on the Venditte motion which is a return for a specific amendment. Senator Labeledz and then Senator Wagner.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Way back in 1973 and even before that when I was an employee of the City of Omaha, I can recall many, many community action groups coming into the City Hall, meeting with the mayor and the city council and this went on for years, I would say in the late '60s, until February 1977 when all the community action groups and the city council came up with an ordinance that is working very well in Omaha. We have no problems with it. The group around, especially I can remember around Cathedral and around the University before that were having a problem where there was group homes almost on every block. Now we have got the situation well in hand and it is only because we have such a wonderful ordinance. Now I am not saying I disapprove of LB 525 because I think that it is a good bill but we have already got an ordinance that has