

pointed out the large number of cases which are coming to light because we have not been aware of them. We simply have said, "Oh, that is a family situation", and when an adult would say, "I am being mistreated", people would just simply think their feelings had been hurt and so they were saying something to get back at a younger daughter or a younger son. Now they are discovering that is not true.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner, you have one minute left.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that Senator Marsh has brought up some good examples and, therefore, I am going to support the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins, do you wish to be recognized, and then Senator Kahle?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak to the amendment as regard to the question Senator Hefner asked. Senator Hefner, I spent the entire spring, summer, fall and right up until we came to this Legislature doing a study on nursing homes and I have a bill in to correct some of the abuses. I found that in the rural areas the nursing homes give very good tender loving care, more than we do in the metropolitan areas, part of the reason is because everybody knows everybody. But if you want to know if there are abuses of the elderly, I am going to give you one that I will never forget as long as I live. When my mother was in Eppley Care Center after she had a stroke that paralyzed her on one side, and she was there for therapy or she would never have been there, she was in excruciating pain one day. She begged the nurses and the doctors, anybody, please call her doctor. Would they please call one of her daughters? The phone was within arm's reach and she begged them to hand her the phone so she could call me or my sister or her doctors. The nurse's aides, the nurses, none of them would hand my poor mother the phone. Thank God I went to see her that night at about nine o'clock when I got out of the Legislature. There is no excuse for that and the American Bar Association being opposed to this bill, I am going to take that as a personal affront to all the elderly doing it under the guise of confidentiality. We are talking about bucks, American Bar Association, and I am talking about people and so is Senator Marsh. If the American Bar Association wants to oppose something that is going to protect the elderly, they are not only going to fight Senator Marsh but they are going to have Senator Higgins, and believe me, they won't forget it for three years. Thank you, Senators.