

wherever he or she wishes. The state is merely setting the minimal, I underline minimal standards for the protection of those children who are at their business location of child care. When parents send children to school or choose to take them to the theater or a sports event, they expect that government standard will be enforced and their children will be safe. Parents anxious for day care may not know all of the questions to ask and may unknowingly place their child in jeopardy. Registration of day care homes can prevent problems before they occur. A person applying for a license for a day care home business must first be cleared through the central registry for child abuse and neglect. If a person has a record of child abuse or other problems, the license will be denied. Parents have no assurance of a care giver's past record without the licensing procedure. The cost is minimal and it is a business cost deductible as a business expense. When we are talking about the business of day care we need to have minimum regulations for the protection of the health and safety of the children in the State of Nebraska. I urge you to not adopt the amendment and to indefinitely postpone LB 270.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR HOWARD PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would rise to ask Senator Newell some questions if he would respond please. Senator Newell, we have a Senator in this body by the name of Senator Don Wagner. I believe he has fourteen children. Under your amendment, does it mean that Don has to have a day care center?

SENATOR NEWELL: Absolutely not, only if Senator Wagner or his wife take in other children for pay would they then be regulated. The present law, Senator Peterson, says if you take in two or more children, in other words if you take in one child, you are not regulated, if you have two children, then you are regulated. Now what this says is we are talking about a total number of five in the household but only if you take in children other than your family.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: All right, let's then say that I have a family of five and I decide that I would like to help my neighbor across the street and take in two more, then do I have to register?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, you would, Senator Peterson. What we are trying to do here is to create a compromise. The compromise will not satisfy everyone but it does create a level of deregulation much greater than presently exists in the law.