

January 27, 1982

LB 270

SENATOR H. PETERSON: As I understand your amendment, what you are saying in the amendment is that the state can do this better than the county boards can?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Peterson, frankly, one of the arguments yesterday was that the county boards just won't and I think that is true and so they say so therefore this argument about the county boards doing it is just a ruse and they are going to oppose the bill anyway. This is an attempt to find a compromise.

SENATOR HOWARD PETERSON: I think this comes back to the old matter of whether we believe in local control or whether we don't. I am a firm believer in local control. Personally I would much prefer to have this decision in the hands of the county board where local people can make their wishes known. I think it is time for us to quit trying to regulate everybody everywhere. For that reason I would oppose your amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. Dingaling, excuse me, I mean Mr. President...

PRESIDENT: I did not say "ling", just "ding".

SENATOR HABERMAN: I added the "ling".

PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Members of the Legislature, I would like to read you from a public hearing held here in Lincoln, testimony of Barbara Chesnut. "Good afternoon. My name is Barbara Chesnut. I live in the 26th Legislative District here in Lincoln. I have two sons, aged 4 and 6. In the past I have used care services regularly outside of my home when I was working myself. I have used the licensed and unlicensed child care services. My testimony this afternoon is in favor of LB 270. I will address three points concerning the issue of child care, the first being my right as a parent in choosing the best for my children. My husband and I are very much able to take care of ourselves and of our children. I resent the statements made in recent months regarding the issue of child care services that imply only the state can determine the best care for my children. I chose to be a parent, and I will continue to rely on my own and my husband's judgment in determining what's best for our children. Licensing the people who provide child care only means that state-determined standards and conditions are met in the child care facility.