

January 27, 1982

LB 270

to dismantle the law that we have at the present time. As Senator Marsh, I believe it was, suggested, LB 270 in its present form is not a step toward quality care for our children. It is a step backward. In my opinion it will not only be a detriment to quality child care but it might also provide an avenue for warehousing of children in totally unsafe and unhealthy conditions. I would urge you to support the motion to kill LB 270. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Barrett's motion to indefinitely postpone LB 270. Currently LB 270 stipulates that counties may license these homes. It is unlikely, however, that most counties would take on the added expense, paperwork, licensing that enforcement would require. These responsibilities are being carried out right now by the Department of Public Welfare. If this bill passes, children cared for in these homes would not be protected by the rules for day care homes which are now promulgated by the Department of Welfare. Many of you have probably received the same packet I did but I would like to remind you that people from across the State of Nebraska are opposed to this bill. The President of the League of Women Voters from Omaha, the State Chairperson for Child Care, the Council for Services for Children from Omaha, the Nebraska Department of Health, parents of children who are in day care, providers of home day care, Quality Child Care, Inc. of Omaha, Central Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children from Kearney. There are people in all counties of our state who desire the current regulations to be in place to protect the children and infants in day care. We are not taking away a decision from a parent. A parent can still choose to place the child with a neighbor. The parent can still choose to use day care home, day care center. The parent has the final decision as is right but do not take away the minimum protection which is currently available to us by the passage of LB 270. No, let's put to rest this bill this year and not be endangering the safety and welfare of children who are in needed day care services in the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, this issue was before us several years ago and I used an analogy then on how sometimes animals are smarter than people and how the bovine species does share the burden of raising their young and some of the city slickers told me I didn't know