

I would urge you to reconsider the action to indefinitely postpone LB 270. I think Senator Burrows' proposal is a reasonable one. I do not intend to spend a great deal of time on this issue this morning because the Legislature has debated it extensively previously. But the current law is not being enforced throughout the State of Nebraska. If it were enforced throughout the State of Nebraska it would create...first of all, it would cost thousands if not several hundred thousands of dollars to adequately enforce the existing statutes of the state. Secondly, I believe that any regulation beyond that for five children is unnecessary. We have talked about abuses and I know the abuse in the Fremont area that was in the newspaper last year was discussed, but that particular abuse still falls within the statute after Senator Burrows' bill would be passed in its current form. And so I see no reason for us to regulate in this area today. I think that any abuses which exist with large numbers of children could still be handled under the current system and I would urge you to reconsider your action to indefinitely postpone LB 270. And I would like to ask Senator Burrows to provide some additional rationale at this time.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I think in presenting the bill maybe it should have been put in the perspective of actually legalizing the majority of child care and babysitting in the State of Nebraska. We have only 15 to 20 percent compliance and I feel the measure will simply legalize the small units where there are four or less being cared for as the bill is presently cared for. If there are future amendments, I am open to these. If we could separate between Douglas and Lancaster County and still cover these with the original language of the law and separate it for the rural areas, I think this would be a logical move. I would like to bring your attention...to your attention LB 966 which proposes that licensing of child care providers be a self-supporting function, and if this bill were passed which is from the Appropriations Committee, the fees which are presently \$1 would go to \$70. Now I don't know whether that has a viable chance, but the 15 to 20 percent participation we have now, if the fees are raised from \$1 to \$70 will drastically drop. I don't want to take a lot of your time but I would like to appeal to you that this bill is what...presents what Nebraskans want in getting regulation out of their homes. We have a test of 37 years with the law on the books and only 15 to 20 percent participation. I would urge you to support