March 17, 1982

LB 520

providers". 1 wanted to direct your attention to that part of the bill in light of Senator Peterson's comments with regards to mind control and getting into the control of what is being taught in preschool. This bill has no intent to do that and there is no language in there that would enable you to do that. It is limited to health, safety and protection. With regard to protection I would ask you if you would yield, Senator Johnson, does protection mean exclusively and only physical protection to the children or are we talking about some kind of a standard definition?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No, Senator Beutler, protection as far as I am concerned means exclusively the physical protection of children and there is no expansion to that word.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you. I would just point out to you in that regard then that the regulations that we are putting into effect for child care are very similar if not exactly the same as the regulations we have in effect with regard to our schools, that is we are saying let's protect our young children the same as we protect our middle aged and teenage children in whatever facilities they are being cared in. So, I see nothing radical in the proposal at all in that regard. Secondly, I just wanted to talk about licensing generally for a moment. This legislature for the four years that I have been here has reaffirmed year after year and area after area the legitmacy and the acceptability and our approval of licensing. We have licensed beauticians, we have licensed accountants, lawyers, physical therapists, we even license barbers. Now I ask you how you can justify licensing a physical therapist or licensing a barber, someone who takes care of your hair, and not license someone who takes care of your children. It seems to me that our priorities are all backwards if we are going to sit here in this legislature and say we are going to continue to license these types of things but we will not license the care of children. If you are going to wipe out the licensing law completely in all areas and start again to license only the most important things, it seems to me that the very first thing you would start with is the licensing of those, the reasonable licensing of those who care for children. So the concept, if you believe in licensing, then there is absolutely nothing wrong with the concept that you are being presented with today. In fact, it makes more sense, much more sense than much of the licensing that we have in effect today. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Cope on the bill. SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members a question of Senator

9043