

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: I call the question.

SENATOR LAMB: Do I see five hands? Those supporting ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Lamb voting yes.

SENATOR LAMB: Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR LAMB: Debate has ceased. Senator Vard Johnson to close on the bill.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would certainly urge you to advance this bill to Select File. The bill, as amended and even as amended by Senator Haberman and Newell and by Senator Vickers, frankly does a lot in the area of child care in Nebraska. You have on your desk a white sheet, which I passed around, which pretty much describes what the bill does. I know that you have received a lot of letters from preschools and I have really been concerned about that because for the first time in my four years down here I have carried a piece of legislation that I think someone has seriously misrepresented. You know the old Quaker story about somebody that spreads gossip, the Quaker story is what you do to admonish the child gossiper is tell the child to go out and pick up a ripe dandelion and then blow the seeds away, then tell the child to go pick them up. He can't pick them up. What has happened very simply is you received a lot of correspondence on this legislation that is a product simply of misrepresentation. The preschool, as far as I am concerned, need to be, need to be licensed at least for health, safety and protection of children. If I take my child to a preschool, I want to make certain...at least have a feeling in my own heart that somewhere along the line that that preschool has been inspected and that preschool is at least operating in a safe environment for the children. There is no way that LB 520 though is designed to deal with program content whether it be religious, whether it not be religious, whether it be humanistic, whether it not be humanistic or what have you in a preschool or a child care facility. All we are saying under this piece of legislation is that the Department of Public Welfare has the regulatory authority to govern health, safety and protection of children who are being cared for by persons other than their parents and that includes industry based child care, home based child care, preschool care, and what have you. The only basic exemption is this: If there are four children or fewer, four children or fewer in the care of another then they are not to be covered by our protective