

over kill. I hope that we can kill the bill.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I guess the arguments to kill this bill frankly come from people who really don't think we ought to do much of anything for children that happen to be in preschool. Now this bill is a bill that addresses child care. Child care can take place in a lot of different facilities. Child care can occur in a home, it can occur in a child care center, it can occur in a child care center located at a plant, in a hospital, it can occur in a preschool. Child care can take place in many different facilities. That includes preschool. We have on our books right now an antiquated licensing statute. It was created in 1943, it was a product of our women going off to work in the war plants and our children needing to be placed in the care of others. So at 1943 we as a state said we better at least regulate child care one way or the other. That statute has not been updated. So what 520 does, with the amendments that are on it at this point in time, is it simply establishes a decent regulatory scheme for child care. Now I have worked with this bill for two years. Not one year, not a half year but two years. I have worked with the most desperate group of well intended people I have ever worked with. By desperate I mean I have got one group that believes this thing and another group that believes that thing and a third group that believes this thing and a fourth group that believes that thing and right on down the line. But over the long pull, over the long pull and I mean a two year long pull, I have virtually brought consensus among the groups. However, in the last month a community of care givers known as preschools who have never been regulated, never been touched, for health, safety, and protection of children, took this piece of legislation, this simple piece of legislation, linked it up with another piece of legislation introduced by Senator Koch, LB 938, which as Senator Koch well knows allows the public schools to have their facilities used for a preschool program at a cost to the parents, which was a discretionary piece of legislation, took this piece of legislation hooked it up to 938 and said what we are doing is we are building a big monopoly, building a big octopus to put the care of children in the hands of the public, to have it tax supported and the like. They sent misrepresentations out throughout the State of Nebraska. These misrepresentations jangled the nerves of a community because the community did