

establishment with which they would be better satisfied. I perceive LB 520 seeks to interfere with this relationship and the responsibility both in the bills current form as a licensing provision and in its long range objective involving the state in financially supporting students in early childhood centers and influencing the centers program content and methodology. We have talked a lot about fire and safety regulations. I think it should be noted that 520 as amended is not dealing with the issue of whether or not preschools should be inspected by the fire department and the health department. As a matter of fact it is my understanding that there exists in Nebraska law provision for annual inspections for fire and safety of early childhood educational establishments and provisions for investigating complaints received from parents. I think a conclusion to be drawn from this analysis is that safety is already provided for. LB 520 means to open the door for the state by giving it limited precedence in establishing standards in areas other than health and safety. It also grants the state power to enforce. . .

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you, and impose values on the citizens of Nebraska. It appears there is a subtle shift that will have taken place with the passage of this bill in that preschool age children are not seen solely as the wards of their parent any longer but a responsibility of society wholly. Hence, the state's interest is not solely to protect the child from harm but to educate the child for good and the good is not individually determined by each parent based on his or her conscience and value system but by the good of the state as interpreted by an administrative bureaucracy. Ladies and gentlemen, I think this is the first step, should we pass this measure, to seeing the curriculum control of those who operate preschools and I still feel genuinely that the responsibility should rest with the parents of these children, not with the public sector in government. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: (No response).

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Senator Vard Johnson, I would like to pose a query, if I may please. Is there anything in this legislation that I have missed