

April 8, 1982

LB 520

financial wherewithal to provide child care. We do it right now, incidentally. We do it right now through the Title XX Social Services program. The State of Nebraska commits \$4 million a year....commits \$4 million a year just to meet child care needs of the lowest of our low income people, and I think it is a long-standing struggle, and, yes, in my book this is one step in the progression. Yes, this is the camel's nose under the tent. But, you know, you can always cut off the camel's nose if you want to, but I don't think in the final analysis you ultimately will. I think simply speaking you want to assure yourselves that we have appropriate regulatory and licensing standards, and that is... and what we do is we provide for the protection of our children. It is very important to me and it is very important to all the parents and it is very important to us as a society that we at least assure ourselves of that. So again, of course, I rise in opposition to the motion to kill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell, did you wish to discuss it further? It won't be necessary because this. . . you were the last speaker. Senator Peterson, you may close on your motion.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I appreciated Vard Johnson speaking the second time and saying yes, it is the camel under the tent, you bet it is. The decision is going to be made this morning whether or not the children of this state belong to their parents in preschool or whether they belong to the state. That is the truth of the matter. That is the decision that is going to be made this morning. I think it is time for us as parents and grandparents to say to the State of Nebraska we can make some decisions on our own. We don't need the state trying to tell us everything. As has been indicated before as far as safety and fire and the other things are concerned those are all covered presently in present statutes. I just want to say to you that what you do this morning will depend upon whether or not, number one, you open the door; number two, you increase the cost of child care in this state because you put this kind of regulation in effect and I just want to say to you this is very much like the Christian school deal. You are starting the same kind of thing all over again. I just think it is time for us to say no on the front end.

PRESIDENT: Question before the House is the motion to indefinitely postpone LB 520. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Two are excused, Senator Peterson, so you know where we are. Have you all . . .

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