

April 8, 1982

LB 520

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I would just call the question.

PRESIDENT: All right, and again you are the last speaker so it won't be necessary. We are ready for closing on Senator Vard Johnson's motion. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Let me just deal with a couple of issues. Senator DeCamp has raised a concern about the expression "protection of children", that is in the bill, it is not in the amendment, so if you want to talk about that with respect to the bill, that is fine. Senator Pirsch is concerned that both Omaha and Lincoln are given by this measure the right to regulate in the cracks, so to speak, to regulate the non-regulated areas. The areas that have been exempted under this bill. Currently Omaha does not regulate, Lincoln does. Lincoln has a fairly aggressive program and it was Lincoln that came to me, Lincoln came to me with that basic request that they be permitted to continue to regulate those homes that have fewer than five children because the original bill wouldn't let them do that. I spend a lot of time talking to Lincoln people about how effective their regulating was, how good it was so on and so forth, and I finally became convinced that they were probably doing a decent job with it. If a local community wants to regulate more extensively than the State of Nebraska wants to regulate, at least in the exempted areas I felt that there wasn't a major problem with that. In the end, you know, if the people in Omaha, if Omaha decides it wants to regulate and it wants to regulate those homes that have fewer than five children in them, that would have to be a city council ordinance, it would be up for a public hearing, you know, it is a political decision. I would assume that those that don't wish to be regulated and a lot of others can come forward and testify and can convince the city council why that is not a good deal just like we have been convincing this body that it is not a good deal to regulate those very... those homes which have such few children in them. So, I don't have any real misgivings about the local option issue. The rest of the changes I think in these amendments are pretty innocuous. They do increase the fees, they increase the fees more significantly than LB 928 does and again those have been agreed to essentially by persons who are in the business. I think that it is very straightforward I would ask you to adopt it.

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