

you remember how many hours we argued on LB 274 saying that insurance agents had to have so many hours of education? But the nursing homes don't want to give a minimum of forty hours training to the people that are going to care for your husband, your wife, your mother, your father or even your son or daughter if they are paralyzed from an automobile accident and spend the rest of their natural life in a nursing home and that is why I have offered this amendment because it was held down so long as a bill and because it deserves your attention and 17,000 people in nursing homes are hoping and praying that you will help them instead of the hospitals and the nursing homes. Senator Howard Peterson has argued long and hard for teaching Christianity in schools. I notice Senator Peterson is reading a newspaper right now which tells me his mind has already been made up. Senator Peterson, if you want to teach Christianity, do it right here on the legislative floor and protect the people that are in the nursing homes who are unable to protect themselves, who because they have already been threatened by certain nursing home administrators, cannot come forward and tell what is happening to them. You've all read the bill, you've all read the handouts I've been giving you for the last two weeks telling you what these amendments will do.

PRESIDENT: One minute now, Senator.

SENATOR HIGGINS: If you don't want to vote for the bill or for the amendments, you'll vote red. Red is the color of blood. Pontius Pilate was the first one that stood up and said, "I wash my hands of this matter. The blood of this man is not on my hands." Turn your heads and say, "This isn't happening." Don't call the Department of Health and ask them for the records of what is going on in your nursing homes, turn your head so that when one day it hits the front page of what is really going on in the nursing homes in Nebraska you can say, "Oh, I didn't know that. I never believed Senator Higgins and I wouldn't take the time to ask the Department of Health if I could see copies of all the things that happened, complaints that come forward, things that are discovered just by their inspectors." 146 complaints were received last year. Do you know how many of them for Omaha and Lincoln? None. They were from the rural parts of Nebraska. Everybody says, oh, she is only talking about Omaha and Lincoln. Omaha and Lincoln had 95 but throughout the state a 146. That was just complaints. Violations were found...

PRESIDENT: Time, Senator.