

April 13, 1982

LB 378

frankly, as much as I think some changes need to be made along the lines that Senator Higgins is suggesting, I think it would be unhappy for us to adopt these at this point in time without further discussion so I guess I am arguing against the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the amendments. I would just like to point out about two or three things. Any time we make major changes in this body we know that we have to fine tune them later. I don't know of a bill or a major issue we've dealt with, whether it be criminal code or sanitation or certificate of need or anything, we try an idea, a basic idea and then we fine tune it over the next one or two or three years. Senator Cullan and Senator Beutler and Senator Higgins basically all stood up and agree on one thing. They said there are some major changes needed and they said they need to be along the lines that Senator Higgins is suggesting and the only real point of disagreement is, I guess, when you implement or when you attempt your first major change. If we were to do this today, then the bill would go into effect about August and you'd have four or five months of experience learning the problems and the benefits of the legislation and you'd have something to really work with next year when you were doing your structuring or fine tuning or adjustments. Additionally it is my understanding and, Senator Higgins, I wish you would correct me if I am wrong on this, but it is my understanding that the amendment you offered incorporates all of the corrections, all of the adjustments made by the committee and some additional ones offered to you by the nursing home industry. They are all involved in the amendment as you have offered it. Is that correct? Well just bob your head yes or no.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, that is correct, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, so what you are talking about then is a piece of legislation that has been fine tuned a lot already, has the basic ideas to correct the problems Senator Higgins identified and I do indeed say, that it is worth the risk at this time to make this major adjustment, get it in place and do the fine tuning on the engine next year when you see where some fine tuning needs to be done. So I urge you to support the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator Higgins' amendment and I do so