

for this amendment you would effectively be killing LB 378. I think he is referring to Governor Thone's statement that, when he said, that virtually any appropriations bills he would kill. This is absolutely untrue. I spoke with John Knight, Governor Thone's aide, just last week and he also said this is untrue, that the Governor will not veto every bill that has an appropriations to it. The fiscal impact of this bill is considerably less than what was originally put in the Journal. At the time they prepared their fiscal impact they were not aware of the twelve amendments I offered and I offered those amendments after the Nebraska Health Care Association's lobbyist, Jim Brown, came to me and virtually all twelve of the amendments I offered to my original bill plus the sixteen pages I took out of it, was to work with the nursing home industry and Jim Brown promised to come back and work with me some more and said he would have other amendments but he did not come back, nor did anyone from the nursing home industry come to me and say, I want to work with you on this. After the public hearing some people came from Senator Hefner's district and I explained to them why I had presented this bill and they said that they were running good nursing homes and they were not guilty of these abuses and I said, fine, this will not hurt you. This bill is designed... or this amendment now is designed to help nursing homes such as Lowell Johnson has. Those that are doing a good job and taking good care of people are going to profit by this because you are going to run the bad nursing homes out of business or you're going to make them pay the penalty so that they do comply with the Health Department's rules to protect people. It will also be something that nursing homes can use as an advertising tool. They can advertise very freely that they have been in compliance with the Health Department and have received no penalties or citations once they get into compliance with this bill. Senator Beutler...

PRESIDENT: Half a minute, Senator.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Beutler, the purpose of this amendment is not to kill LB 378. The purpose of this amendment is to try to keep from killing 17,000 people residing in nursing homes. This is all I have to say about the amendment at this time and I hope you will vote to bring the bill back so that we can discuss the amendment in full. Thank you, Senators.

PRESIDENT: The question before the House is the motion to return LB 378 for the specific Higgins amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Everybody is supposed to be at your desks. We are on Final Reading. Two excused now, Chambers and Marvel now, right. Okay. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I do not like to do this but I would have