

January 17, 1992 LB 677

living in the community and we get the volunteers and so on. It's a great program and I can't see how anybody can refuse such an offer that would cost so little. I appreciate your vote for this...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Does anyone else wish to speak to the Wesely amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Wesely?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. Again, this is the amendment that puts into place the language that has reached some agreement. There may be some further refinements but I think we're pretty close to having everybody completely satisfied, so I'd ask for adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. We'll now vote on the Wesely amendment to LB 677. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The Wesely amendment is adopted. Senator Wesely, I haven't allowed you to open yet on the bill itself. Would you care to do that now?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, Madam President, I think I've gone over it. As I described, the amendment does become the bill, but I think it's a model that we ought to keep in mind for other activities. As Senator Cudaback said, we get a lot for very little expense here and as government cannot have the full staff and full cost of various programs, the more we recognize the ability of volunteers to appropriately step in and assist us, it makes a lot of sense. I thought Senator Hillman made a very good point. Two staff in Lincoln aren't going to get out to Scottsbluff a whole lot and if we can figure out a mechanism to local people have an involvement and help assist, it just makes a lot of sense. So not only does it save money for us and the taxpayer, but it makes more sense because you have local people looking out for local residents and I think you have a better effort, more reasonable solutions to problems as a result. And the nursing home industry, to its credit, although they were concerned, recognized the value and have benefitted from it and our nursing home industry in general is far superior to many