

September 30, 1992 LB 3

because it went through the Education Committee and I thought, yeah, this is a reasonable...on the surface, this is a reasonable area in which we can limit some of the expenses in education in a targeted area where the policy that is dictating this spending doesn't particularly make sense. The more I got into it, as of yesterday I felt that while there are some areas where implementing this policy as LB 3 in its totality claims would cause too great a hardship but let's find a way of dividing the foster care placements into different categories and create different scenarios for funding of those. As we put that out on the table, I found that it raised more questions than we had before, and it demonstrated that we have even less knowledge in this situation. So because of that, I'd offered an amendment, thrown an amendment on the desk yesterday, and it indicated that I would be revisiting that particular amendment on Select File. I have chosen not to do that because the offering of that amendment raised a tremendous number of questions. I do think that the policy that the Appropriations Committee is recommending, and, frankly, there will be people who will disagree even with this change, but the policy of saying that the State of Nebraska really should not have an obligation to fund the education of those that are in foster homes as opposed to group homes is a correct policy and it is one way in which we can cut funds from education that has a targeted impact, not a general impact, so I am supporting that. What I am recommending in place of the amendment I had yesterday I will explain in just a few moments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also try to be brief but I think several points need to be made in this matter, and I haven't made up my mind yet how I am going to vote on this amendment. I opposed the bill in its original form. I don't agree with Senator Withem that there is a difference between the responsibility of the state relative to a foster home or a group home. We are talking about state wards, not county wards, not city wards, not precinct wards, but state wards, you know, and we have a tendency to talk in terms of dollars, dollars and cents, and we kind of throw all of these kids into a category of being represented by a buck and how we're going to move them around, but I don't think anyone...that's not fair of me to characterize. I would hope that everybody would take note of the type of children that we're talking about here. We aren't just talking dollars and cents, we're talking about 50 percent