

February 29, 1996 LB 1322

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR LYNCH: We have to know that difference.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would like to take a second to introduce guests of all members of the Legislature, here from around the state we have 50 ninth through twelfth grade students here who are representing the Prairie Hill Girl Scout Council of Nebraska along with (names given), their sponsors. They're up in the north balcony. Can you all stand, we'd like to recognize you. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I just had a couple of questions I'd like to ask Senator Wesely, if I could, if he's around.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I guess the question that I'd like to...and generally I'm supportive of what you're trying to do. I...not speaking directly now to the...to the Maurstad amendment, but speaking directly to the bill. I guess the question that I have and I think you should be able to provide me an answer, and that is, if we...you talked about the fire marshal, the Health Department, the various entities that are running out in all directions and causing...my question is, if in fact we're bringing those all together to develop a sort of a regulatory system that's not so complicated, the question I have is that, in fact, going to make another layer of government, another bureaucracy that we're going to have to support out there, who is then going to be another layer over the top of what we already got that's, in fact, going to drive the costs up? You know, we're...Senator Wesely, you all recognize, and I'm sure all of us do, that the hue and cry out there is the cost of government, the increased cost of government. Taxes continue to increase because of the things sometimes that we do down here to expand government so that it costs the people more money. And I guess I just would like to have some response to, will this, in fact...I realize the committee doesn't, but I'm talking about the ultimate goal, after it's all put together and recommendations are handed down, is that what's going to happen? By the way, I liked what Senator Lynch said back here a while ago because I think it makes a lot of sense. I think he's...particularly in the area that he comes from, it does make