

March 5, 1975

know what's going on in the town of Omaha as far as any violent situation is concerned. In other words, these reports go to the police department, they keep a log. On this log if they decide, for example, after talking to the people there's not an emergency situation, then they do not investigate. If there is an emergency situation where violence is in progress, then they go ahead and send a car out. Now this car, in discussing this with the police department we can arrange for this to be an unmarked car, if that's the desire of the child welfare people. We want the police officer to go in and quiet down the disturbance, or stop the violence. After that is done he writes a report back to his station. The log itself, including every call that the department receives, including also a copy of the report on the investigation that they conduct, all goes to the child protective people the following day. By the same token if the child protective people receive call they report it to the police department the next day. What we want, in other words, is for the police to go in and quiet the violence, and then the child protective people who are trained in that area can go ahead and do the follow-up and provide care or after-care for the children. That's their job. The job of going in and quieting down the disturbance is the police officers job. That's the end product of this amendment. I would adopt this amendment which takes the place of the Marsh-Cavanaugh amendment from the other day.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, I have in my hand the letter from Mrs. Dietz on Nebraska P.T.A. letterhead. In the third paragraph she says, "Mrs. Beggs was one of the last to testify and she had considerable discussion with committee members. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Beggs was present and did not discuss in the committee one word regarding LB 20. I can understand the mistake because Mrs. Beggs did testify that same day on another bill heard in that committee, but she did not testify on this piece of legislation." I also have a letter sent to Glen Goodrich by the Chief of Police from Omaha. When I called him this morning he was unaware that there had been an amendment already adopted to LB 20 which made changes in that bill which he violently objected to. He was glad to know that there had been some amendments adopted last Friday in this legislative body. This letter was written the 3rd of March and he still had not been informed about the adoption of that amendment. Does the system, we currently have, work well? From September 2, 1973, when the reporting law went into effect, until January 2, 1975 Lancaster county submitted 287 reports to the Central Abuse Register. Douglas county reported 236. Lancaster 287, Dougals 236. This can be interpreted several ways, but I do not think it means there is less abuse in Omaha. The Protective Service Unit in Dougals county reports that they receive reports from the Omaha police only when the parents are arrested and the children placed in foster homes. This is only a fraction of the cases, because Protective Service is not informed of the other