

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Jacobson.

SENATOR JACOBSON: Mr. President and members, I rise here to support the amendments by Senator Hefner and I have visited at some length over the weekend and also on the telephone this morning with a director of one of Nebraska's largest care homes. They say that they go along with the bill presented by Senator Higgins with these amendments, they can live with it. But they feel very much against the bill as presented without the amendments. I think in one particular case that if they have something that they are doing wrong and that they correct that, that they should be able to be put back in business at the end of a month or two when the corrections are made rather than wait eleven months. I endorse Senator Hefner's amendments and urge the members to vote for those.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, did you wish to speak again? Senator Hefner, did you wish to close on your amendments? Oh, excuse me, I thought you just hadn't turned it off. Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Hefner, I have a real problem. If you will turn to section 13 of the bill it says, "any person entering a nursing home pursuant to section 12 of this act shall first notify appropriate nursing home personnel of his or her presence, he or she shall upon request produce identification to establish his or her identity and no person shall enter the immediate living area of any resident without first identifying himself or herself," but if you are going to take out that legal representative they don't have that. It refers back to section 12 so I certainly could not support that amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, your light is on. Senator Jacobson, did you wish to speak again? Okay.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, I didn't get a chance to hear everything Senator Jacobson said except something about the eleven months that the nursing home had taken and I want Senator Jacobson and the rest of this body to know these eleven months they have taken have been without going through any judicial system, that under our present rules and regulations the Health Department has allowed them all this time for appeal. It wasn't until last month when they had run out all the appeals that are present in the rules and regulations of the Health Department that the nursing home finally said, okay, now we are going to go to court. And this nursing home has been cited repeatedly for the same identical violations over and over again to the point now where they have decided to lease it and they have had different nursing home