

April 21, 1983

LB 142

knowledge. If you think back at the turn of the century, medical doctors were not the great healers. They had not yet received the latest in technology, the latest in scientific advances because those were still ahead of them, those were still ahead of them. So at the beginning of the Twentieth Century there were lots of competing philosophies for the treatment of the human being. There was the osteopath, the homeopath, the chiropractor, faith healing, lots of other kinds of competing, competing concepts for the healing of people, and during that time period when the medical profession simply was not held in the highest of regards, during that time chiropractic was licensed by the State of Nebraska. We were the third state in the country to license this occupation. Now by and by the medical profession came into the cultural ascendancy of our society for the treatment of people. We came to understand and respect scientific and technological knowledge developed, acquired and used by physicians, by doctors, and chiropractic remained relatively constant in its learning. In fact, one of the things that I have received from the lobbyist for the bill, Larry Murphy, is a little history of the occupation, and Larry Murphy in his handout says this. From 1927 to 1949 no new doctors of chiropractic were admitted in Nebraska. And he says this. This was a watershed in chiropractic history as the enactment of basic science laws across the country forced all chiropractic colleges to become, in effect, four year scientifically based basic science colleges to prepare their graduates to pass the barriers of chiropractic which had been raised by the medical profession via the basic science law techniques. He says, and this is important, looking back this was a blessing in disguise as it forced vast improvement in chiropractic education. Now I think that all that is happening on LB 142 is this. We are simply saying if we are going to expand the scope of licensure for chiropractors, it is important that we expand it in a thoughtful, careful manner so that we do not take individuals who are not doctors....

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ....who are not trained in medicinal practices and give them tools which they do not currently need to undertake their current level of knowledge and occupation. And to permit chiropractors to take x-rays of all parts of one's body is also to admit the chiropractor should be treating all parts of one's body, including the spine. Traditionally, chiropractors have treated the spine and spinal problems, and that, I think, is the appropriate level of limitation. I do not believe that chiropractic....