

January 31, 1984

LB 14

and Nebraska does not take that into consideration. For that reason I strongly support LB 14 and I am very much opposed to this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in opposition of Senator Von Minden's amendment. Tomorrow morning at nine-thirty you are going to hear an hour from Governor Robert Kerrey regarding economic development in the State of Nebraska and what you are going to hear tomorrow is you are going to hear about how we need to provide tax credits and incentives and the like to business so that business will expand, develop, provide jobs, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. The thing that we really don't discuss with any degree of frequency in our body is idle labor and untapped human resources. If you and I were simply able to use our people to the best of their God given ability to provide them with jobs, to provide them with meaningful work, if you and I were able to take the current unused capacity of our steel mills, our auto facilities, our electronic industry and turn it into fully and totally productive resources, this would be a mighty nation the likes of which would not be seen on the face of the earth before. There has to be first beginnings for the full utilization of people and skills and one of the first beginnings lies in this very simple recognition that people with children have a difficult time fully utilizing their God given talents in the labor market and for that reason it is imperative that every state, not just Nebraska, but every state, every state provides substantial public support for child care and one of the very small things that Senator Kilgarin is doing in this measure is she is, through a tax credit program, providing a small amount of public support for child care. If we were to water down the efficacy of her bill by decreasing the cap from \$25,000 to \$20,000 in a moment of penury we again would be following the old Benjamin Franklin adage, "penny-wise and pound-foolish." It is important, it is important that we realize the necessity of public involvement with child care. In the absence of public involvement with child care parents are left to totally fend for themselves. Parents become dispirited,