

manner of exemptions from regulations that are designed to benefit children will come into being. We know that a lot of things arise which will cause children to be placed in certain types of environment. You would like to believe that well regulated institutions are going to look after the interests of children but what is happening at the Omaha School for the Deaf or the Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha indicates that terrible things befall children in institutions where there is supposedly tight regulation. So if we put children in environments which in ordinary circumstances would necessitate regulation by the state and say that by hiding this activity behind a religious banner when religion has nothing to do with the issue is a grave mistake on the part of the state and it is an injustice to the children of this state. I think Senator Peterson knows that. I don't think he seriously expects this amendment to be adopted but on the chance that it is being taken seriously by some members of the body, I hope you will think about the implications of it and defeat it.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Senator Kahle, and members of the Legislature, I rise to object strenuously to the proposed amendment which Senator Howard Peterson has offered. This would be a miscarriage of justice if it were adopted. I do support the legislative bill in its form now with some hesitation. I could not support the bill at all if this amendment were adopted. I urge your rejection of this amendment. It is a miscarriage of justice to even propose it in my estimation. Children are a very valuable resource for our state. Their health, their safety should have high priority with everyone regardless of where those children are. I can say no less as a responsible member of this legislative body than the fact that all children deserve this care and safety. Fire safety is paramount. We should not have exceptions to these rules and regulations which are meant and designed for the protection of those who cannot protect themselves in many instances.

SENATOR KAHLE: There are no other lights on. I recognize Senator Peterson to close.