

March 6, 1984

LB 130

SENATOR KAHLE: Have you finished, Senator Haberman?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, thank you.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Jacobson's amendment. Senator Jacobson's amendment would simply say that the State of Nebraska shall not have any type of uniformity in standards for the care of children in the hands of other people. Senator Jacobson's amendment would say that if a city or a county has decided to provide any kind of licensing for child care, then when that city or county has provided such licensing for child care, whatever their standards are they shall totally and absolutely control. Now one of the basic functions of Legislative Bill 130 and I wish that members would get this through their head. One of the basic functions of this bill is to deregulate the licensing process, is to deregulate the licensing process. We have already, we have already exempted from the current licensing requirements day-care homes when the care giver is caring for fewer than four children. Now right now they're covered and they'll continue to be covered unless Legislative Bill 130 passes. We have also recognized in Legislative Bill 130 that with multitudinous regulatory bodies around whether they be the Omaha Douglas County Health Department, the Douglas County Department of Public Welfare, the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare, the Department of Health, the State Fire Marshal's Office, that they will oftentimes have conflicting regulations which causes enormous problems for anybody in the child-care business. So, again, the bill establishes a uniform regulatory authority. Virtually everybody who has done any writing in this area, virtually everybody who has done any writing in this area has said, there has to be a uniform regulatory body. The absence of a uniform regulatory body imposes conflicting standards, differing standards, and frankly works hardships on the people that are being regulated. Now it's easy in this body to suddenly get moved by the dulcet sounds of local control. Local control is of value when local control has been maintained for numbers of years. But

9017