

April 10, 1973

(Start Belt #12)

object, they should have a right to sign a statement and,--

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Okay.

SENATOR MARESH: --require these immunization shots.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: To, to address this bill to the bill presently before us, the State determined that it was in the best interests of these children to be inoculated, wasn't that your theory?

SENATOR MARESH: Right.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Why did you not want the local communities, the local school boards, to decide whether or not their children would be inoculated?

SENATOR MARESH: Well, the parents have that right so there's an out, I believe.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: But why didn't--why in the initial requirement didn't you want to leave that to the local school districts?

SENATOR MARESH: Well--because this is something that's causing mental retardation in unborn children and I think that was the prime--

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: In other words, it was, this was something directed to promote the health of the children of the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR MARESH: Not only health but well being too. I don't think we want to have any more mental retardation than we have now and--with the epidemic, this would bring about great numbers of mental--

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: --but basically you made the determination here that this was for the health of the State of Nebr--of all the children of the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR MARESH: That's right but this is a different issue because there is no way to get exempt from drinking the water; if it's in the town water system, you'd have to buy your own water to keep from getting the--

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Senator, well, thank you anyway.

PRESIDENT: Senat--Senator Cava--Yeah, Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I think, I think the whole issue between this bill that passed 42-0 and the bill that's presently before us, the same philosophy should have applied here among all these people, that the local school districts could make it mandatory in their school district if they felt that it was for the best, for the health and welfare of their children to be immunized and they could have retained that exemption of the parents but this body determined that it was for the wel--health and welfare for all the people of the State of Nebraska to have all the children immunized with the exception of those children which the parents decided they did not want immunized. It's the same issue as to what is our responsibility in this body. Once we make the determination, once we make a finding on the facts that it's for the health and welfare of the, of the society to implement