

March 29, 1979

LB 505

had 12,000 reports. I am sure, Senator Kahle, that you can see the difference in the numbers, Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: I am listening.

SENATOR SIMON: See the difference in the numbers of cases that are being reported. By having the increased number of cases then they can go out and check those. That is going to cut down on some of the cases. It is going to be able to take some of the kids in the homes who have been unreported before and take them out of those homes.

SENATOR KAHLE: Are you aware of what they are doing here in Lincoln now in regard to this subject?

SENATOR SIMON: Yes, I am but any of the people any place around that are involved in child abuse, I really wanted to discuss this after the amendments were passed and the bill was being discussed and I certainly hope we are not going to run out of time. The people, this was prepared by a task force of all the people that are involved in this problem across the state, will agree that it is a tremendous problem and the number one thing, the number one thing that they say that they must have, Senator Kahle, is the hot line. The hot line with the central registry is not the cure-all. It is not the total solution. I have introduced a resolution, a study resolution, for an interim study to expand this area because more legislation is needed but this is a major step and it is drastically needed and is long overdue towards beginning to combat child abuse in the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR KAHLE: Thank you. I guess... I'm not against this. This would be like being against motherhood and apple pie but I have concerns. I worked with this problem when I was in county government where when you interfere with the family, you are really playing with fire and I hope that this is drafted in such a way that you don't take rights of parents away that may just be disciplining their children. I know that instances that you mentioned here and that are in the paper are much more drastic than that but many people that have never raised a child are trying to tell us how to take care of them now. So I hope that we don't overdo this and I hope that we will be realistic about it. It bothers me a little bit when we get into family problems and I think you can get way too far into them. I believe that Lincoln right now has a system by which they do check children at school if they happen to come up with some bumps. They have law officers that go over and check with