

April 19, 1979

LB 226

that will be left out if the bill is passed and I am sincere in that. If the wording in this amendment is not correct, I certainly will be happy to change it to accomplish what I have just told you that it is designed to accomplish.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle, do you wish to speak on the Lamb amendment?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, when you start talking about handicapped children you get into all kinds of trouble emotionally but I think Senator Lamb's amendment is a good one. I have had several letters from my area from concerned parents that they are afraid that if this program or these programs that are now in effect will be taken over by the school districts, that their children will be receiving less care and less services and I believe this is entirely possible because we have some excellent programs going in outstate Nebraska or greater Nebraska. The other thing I guess that I want to bring out and it probably isn't popular and I suppose you can get all kinds of criticism but it seems strange to me that we relieve the parents of responsibility and take it upon ourselves as legislators and as Boards of Education and what have you, have taken the responsibility for handicapped children. I still feel that a handicapped child is the responsibility of the parent and I know that we have problems, that some parents aren't financially able to do what should be done and I certainly think they should have some help but I still feel that parents of children are responsible for them whether they be healthy, whether they not be so perfect. So I think that we need to be real careful and I really am not in favor of the Department of Education of school boards taking over any of the responsibility below five but I certainly would support the other part of the bill, but on this part that Senator Lamb's amendment is on I support. I think that the programs that are in place are probably better than what they are going to get if the school districts take it over. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Actually Senator Lamb was closing and I neglected to say that but I recognize Senator Fowler and then we will go back to Senator Lamb to close. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well I guess I would disagree with the thrust and philosophy behind the Lamb amendment. As I understand it he is trying, I guess what you would say, to grandfather