

January 29, 1980

LB 525

voted? Senator Nichol. Record the vote.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 18 nays on the motion to return, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion lost.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Venditte now moves to return to Select File for his specific amendment and that amendment is found on page 525.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I can't help but be somewhat redundant with what has gone on here this morning thus far but I think that with the amendment that we have before us it is just simply giving due consideration to the community at large. It is giving due consideration to the neighborhood groups within that community as to whether or not they want these so-called group home facilities to be located wherever they are supposed to be or wherever they have filed for. Senator Sieck is opposed to this. He is opposed to giving the voice of government back to the people. He is saying to the people in the City of Omaha, look, we are telling you what to do, when to do it and how to do it. I object to that kind of legislation and I think you would object to ramrodding this kind of legislation down the throats of the people in the City of Omaha and that is exactly what we are doing. We are telling them you can no longer come to the city council, you can no longer come to the planning board or the zoning board meetings and voice your concerns or your criticisms. We, the State Legislature, have already said what you are going to do and this, ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, is what I object to most. If we are going to be a democratic form of government here, then let's give it back to the voice of the people. If they don't want something, how are we going to know if there is no such thing, Senator Sieck, as a public hearing. In this bill as you have it now drafted it says, people of the City of Omaha, you cannot come to the city council, you can no longer come to the planning board and express your dissatisfaction or your satisfaction with what we are going to be doing within your community. We, the State Legislature, know better than you and that, ladies and gentlemen, is what the entire issue is all about. So, again, the amendment the way it is drafted now, ladies and gentlemen, is giving due consideration where it belongs and that is in the community where these so-called group care facilities will be located and, Senator Sieck, for your information, I have been to a number of those homes