

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is ceased. Senator Simon, do you wish to close?

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Hefner brings up one of the best arguments for supporting this legislation, although I'm sure he didn't know it. Realizing that there are rules and regulations which are damaging and which are not necessary to the industry, LB 754 says that we should look into those as well, Senator Hefner, so that is probably one of the best arguments for it. It isn't just a one sided sword, it works both ways. Senator Goodrich says that we should report the abuses to the Health Department. I would suggest that that is a little bit late to take care of those people that have had the abuses on them. After the fact is not the time to do it, Senator Goodrich, try preventative medicine. The time to do it is before. You don't have the division that does the investigation do the study. Senator Cullan has said that there is not any real serious need for this legislation. Senator Cullan was not present when LB 754 was heard. As a matter of fact I asked for a copy of the transcript to be sent over to Senator Cullan's office and Senator Cullan, and I think I could say this correctly, I literally had to beg you to read that and you had already told me before you read the transcript that you didn't see any need for this type of study. That in spite of the fact that a number of people came forth and testified. Senator Cullan was not at the hearing, yet he had already decided that there wasn't any need for it. I would suggest that a state senator going to a nursing home doing a surprise visit and spending a little bit of time is not a sufficient basis for determining that there are not sufficient problems in the industry. I would most strongly object to having an interim study and would oppose it because I know what is going to happen. What is going to happen is that it is going to be a whitewash. We do not have the proper staff to do the thorough study and I certainly don't mean this in any disrespect to you, Gina, because I think that you are one of the finest people that we have down here in terms of qualifications. But I feel that the people in the Health Department and that division in planning which understand the issue are the ones to do the job. Now I have given the committee two options and yet Senator Goodrich and Senator Cullan hide behind the fact saying, well we can do a study, we can have some of our staff do it. I gave them that option. They turned that down. The fact of the matter is that there is a personality conflict and a very strong one between the chairman of the committee, between some members of the committee and the head of the planning division in the Health Department, and lets not make any bones about that. We