

May 1, 1981

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with the Gant homes. Essentially the problem was this. The Gant homes had maybe three residents or so they claimed and as a result were exempted from almost any licensure that is found now for homes for assisting anybody with a disability. The Health Department, the Welfare Department, the local people, none of them really could do anything but they knew that there was some problems out there with conditions and they were stymied. They just didn't know what to do so the issue came up and they felt they couldn't respond to it and they came to me and asked me to work on this bill. Now Senator Johnson, who has reintroduced the bill with me, has found a similar problem in Omaha, and after we got into the bill, we found that this wasn't just a Lincoln and Omaha situation but was across the state. We had a representative from Hickman who talked to us and told us about some conditions down at Beatrice which I felt were very unacceptable. So what we found was a need to reorganize responsibility in this area, that we needed to identify one agency to handle these licensure requirements and then to make some of the other changes we needed and also the definitions of what homes we would license. Now there is some concern about what definitions we use for homes. We call it a residential care facility and we eliminate these present boarding homes which are now being regulated. The reason we do that is that a boarding home in the present situation as we define it is essentially something where somebody lives and without any assistance and really I don't think there needs to be very much regulation at all in that area so we just eliminated it but we did say that somebody who is in a home that could be considered a boarding home but gets assistance and has to have help from the proprietor, we call that a residential care facility and we need to provide a little more minimum standards for that. So that is the distinction we make. Now there is some concerns that perhaps we ought to reinsert boarding homes or somehow redefine some of the things that we have done and I think that is pretty acceptable in terms of trying to come to some conclusion on that point but that is still to be worked out. So the rest of the bill essentially is one that is very much supported by the Health Department, the Welfare Department. The Ag Department would definitely like to see the changes. They have been assigned responsibilities that they don't do or don't want to do and this does, in fact, clarify the situation and reorganizes in a positive way the situation and I think will deal with the problem that has been called to our attention across the state. Your support for the bill is strongly urged.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Well, after hearing Senator Wesely's detailed