

found four infant children sleeping on cardboard pallets in the unlit, unventilated basement, and you ask yourself, well, why would parents put children in that facility? And the answer, very simply that's all parents could find, that's what they had. Now you and I really do have an obligation to the parents and to the children of our state and that obligation very simply is to keep the regulatory pressure on so that we can at least over the long haul begin to elevate the quality of care available to our children because by virtue of economics....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...not every parent in our state can put his or her child in the finest of facilities, and many parents in our state are essentially compelled to really look the other way when they put their child in a facility. I don't think you and I want ultimately to reap the whirlwind when we have children who are battered, who are abused, who are in bad fixes coming out of those facilities. Incidentally, one of the things that occurs with every application to the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare for a license or just a registration is that the name of the applicant is compared to the child abuse register. It is compared and if the person is found to be an abusive person, you know, that has got a history of child abuse, and there a number of cases of that, then there is no license granted and no permission to operated. Now if we continue with a compromise mode, I mean that facility won't even be available for the protection of the parents and the children.

PRESIDENT: Time, Senator.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: This is not an issue to compromise on, in my opinion.

PRESIDENT: Time is up, and time is up on General File. The Speaker now...his agenda shows that we will go over to Select File. It's 10:30, so this will be taken up the next time the Speaker puts it on the agenda. It is pending. So the Clerk will read some matters into the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Fenger offers a proposed rules change. That will be referred to the Rules Committee for hearing. (See page 421 of the Legislative Journal).

Mr. President, your committee on Public Health and Welfare,