

CLERK: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT: Where are we with regard to LB 270, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB 270, it was considered by the membership yesterday. (Read title.) Yesterday when the Legislature considered it, the committee amendments offered by the Public Health and Welfare Committee were adopted. There was pending, Mr. President, an amendment offered by Senator Newell. The Newell amendment can be found in the Journal on page 420, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell on the Newell amendment.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I presently am asking the Page to circulate a copy of the explanation of the amendment that I offered. The amendment that has been offered is an attempt to compromise on this issue. Over the summer there has been a number of people who have discussed this and, in fact, there has been a great deal of lobbying. It is symbolic and it is probably looked at more as that old urban-rural sort of conflict. My amendment is an attempt to try to compromise and find a legitimate place where we can, in fact, compromise on this issue. Basically, the amendment that is offered simply does this, it moves from five, from six to five the number of children that would be under the deregulation and removes the provision that says "from any family". Basically, this would still allow the majority of homes or the majority of child care institutions or child care families providing child care would still be regulated in the state. It does, however, strike the committee amendments which gives the counties the options to set different standards. Now I think that that was a mistake and I think it was a mistake for two very simple reasons. I doubt whether counties in this state will create their own bureaucracy or regulatory arms and so frankly that is one of the most contended or will be one of the most contested arguments in this whole thing. I have, in fact, secured the support of Senator Burrows who is the introducer of the bill. He does appreciate the attempt to compromise. I would urge this body to adopt this amendment. I think it will make it a state-wide thing in which we find that we can deregulate most or many of the child care providers and at the same time get more selective and preferable enforcement on those people that really are running commercial operations. So I would urge this body to consider this amendment.