

March 16, 1976

SENATOR SIMPSON: Amendment is adopted. Further amendments.

CLERK: From Senator Cavanaugh. (Read Cavanaugh amendment found on page 1160 of the Journal).

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This is a Mahoney amendment of yesterday on the crippled childrens fund at the University, or surgery performed for them by faculty members. I did not pay sufficient attention, I think, yesterday to that debate. I did have an opportunity to review it on ETV. After listening to that I felt that the adoption of this amendment was really unjustifiable, so I think that we should repeal that amendment.

(Senator F. Lewis presiding)

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Further discussion on the Cavanaugh amendment? Read the amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Read Cavanaugh amendment found on page 1160 of the Journal. Senator, is that ... the quoted sentence, is that what you're taking out or do you want that added as new matter?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Excuse me? I'm taking that.

CLERK: The quoted sentence is what you're taking out.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I'm taking that out.

CLERK: Thank you.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I appreciate Senator Cavanaugh's comments in giving this body one more chance to make the right decision which is to reverse its decision of yesterday. I think I laid out my own opinions to you fairly clear. I just want to reconfirm those and to tell you what you're doing. You're taking, ironically, money, funneling it through the crippled childrens program and then funneling it to the Medical Center where it ends up in physicians pockets to encourage them to practice medicine in the University of Nebraska Hospital when that could be achieved by other means. One of the reasons, supposedly, that the physicians are not willing to practice medicine, not conduct surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center is that they don't believe that their patients receive proper post-operative care. If that's true then something should be done about the University of Nebraska Hospital, and this is not the answer. The answer is not to take this money, welfare money specifically crippled children program money, and put it into the pockets of physicians, physicians on the staff who do not have to tell you what their services are achieving for them in terms of income, the only situation like that, in the Big 8, among its medical schools. I said yesterday it's a travesty that we're doing this. It's a means of adding additional appropriations to the staff, specifically the professional staff, of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I repeat that, it is a travesty. I would hope that we'd reconsider the action here.