

have some drastic action. There's going to be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth around Nebraska and it's going to affect rural areas the most. It's going to be because we've abrogated our responsibilities. The Nebraska Hospital Administration made up of some excellent people has a reputation I'm told of studying things to death. When things come up before the Health and Welfare Committee in the past I'm talking about the previous committee, too many things were proposed for interim studies and we have the situation we have today. Now to Senator Kelly, you're absolutely right; these people are doing an excellent job in our hospitals. I have great respect for them, but we cannot sit with 70% or even 25% vacancy rates in our rooms and make ends meet. The only choice is to move up hospital costs and that's exactly what we're doing in this state. We've got to get a handle on that. Now it's interesting that my proposal is criticized as being too modest and that's one of the reasons we didn't get it out of committee. It is a modest approach; it tries to keep the responsibilities for health care in a private sector. That's the approach I'd like to take. I'd say there's nobody in this body who's worked more closely with the hospital administrators in trying to understand all these cumbersome requirements of Medicare and Medicaid and HEW in general than me, than I. I have, I don't want to place anymore requirements upon them. This is not burdensome and the information, the Board of Health, the Nebraska Medical Association, the others indicated is not available today. I am going to ask for a roll call vote Mr. President and I'm going to ask you to consider this, as your constituents open those premium bills from insurance companies around the nation and we're paying now on the average of one month of our income per year for health costs and 40% of those costs are hospitalization costs. They see those premium rates rising. You'd put a red vote up on the board. You tell them you're not even willing to consider this idea on General File for holding down this cost when I bring in the strongest possible slate of proponents for this modest approach. You tell them we didn't think it was worth considering on General File. I think that's essentially what we're saying. It's a simplification, but it's pretty close to the truth. I would move for the advancement of this bill to General File notwithstanding the committee's action. I ask for a roll call vote Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: All senators have reported except Senator Nichol, Senator Bereuter. May we proceed with the roll call? Call the roll.

CLERK: Roll call vote on page 704 of the Journal. Senator DeCamp changing from no to aye. No, from aye to no. 20 ayes, 22 nays Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. There is a motion on the desk to adjourn until 9:00 in the morning. All in favor say aye, contrary say nay. We are adjourned.

Edited by *M. Jacobsen*  
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