

PRESIDENT: All right. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, LB 662 next?

PRESIDENT: Well you can be excused from the Call for certain purposes, with the permission of the presiding officer.

SENATOR DeCAMP: What if he's lying? What if he's fibbing to us about it?

PRESIDENT: I assume that Senator Newell is a man of honor. I know that is not warranted, but I assume it. Senator DeCamp, you are suggesting that I watch another senator? We better vote on whether you're going to pass judgement on somebody else, Senator DeCamp. All right. Your next bill.

CLERK: Read title to LB 662. The bill was read on January 5, 1978. It was referred to the Banking Committee. It was advanced to General File. There are no amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, the purpose of this bill would increase the membership of the Hospital Service Corporation Board of Directors. Actually what it would do is bring them into compliance...bring the law into compliance with the number they've got on the Board. For Blue Cross Blue Shield, when they merged Blue Cross and Blue Shield they had more people than the amount allowed at that time. There was no opposition to the bill. The bill was advanced out of committee with no opposition. Mr. John Humple appeared from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and stated that they were regulated by Section 44-211. He stated they were now limited to 21 persons on the Board of Directors, of which they were now in excess. They needed this legislation so they might be in compliance with the law.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: I have a question concerning getting these boards so large that they become unworkable. I wonder if that might not be one of the factors in here. I know Senator Schmit is involved with some of these boards. I was wondering if he'd comment on it. I have some concerns about getting too many members, therefore, watering down the accountability on them.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Dworak. I did have my light on here. I wanted to rise and explain that this is a conflict of interest bill for me, designed to save my position on the Blue Cross Blue Shield Board, position of much lucrativeness and quite a little power. Actually, you're right, Senator Dworak. The boards can become unwieldy. But there was a merger of the two associations. Frankly, they didn't know how else to handle it in order to have an orderly transition. The system seems to be working very well. This is the only corporation that is affected by it. I believe that the present Board is doing a good job and needs to be continued in its present form. But I am a member of that Board, and I think it's well we make a record of it.