

are not organized, have little or no political clout, it quite candidly is not a popular position to take. That did not concern me. I attempted after the hearing to work with members of the committee to adopt amendments which would be satisfactory. The bill as written called for an outside consultant. It was suggested by some that the cost would be prohibitive, as Senator Cullan mentioned to me. I amended it. Well then it was said, we really don't want to have an outside consultant because an outside consultant doesn't know what is good for us here in Nebraska. I said, okay, let let the appropriate division of the Department of Health handle this. The next question and a key question, a very key question, what division in the Department of Health would do the study? The answer is, that the planning department would do the study. And, who heads the planning department? Dr. Ken Diamond. Now how does Dr. KenDiamond fit into this? For those of us that worked on Certificate of Need last year know that the Department of Health, and in particular Dr. Diamond, were somewhat vocal in terms of their opposition towards watering down amendments and supporting the Certificate of Need. Quite candidly it should be of no surprise to any member on the floor on this body, that there are personality conflicts, strong personality conflicts, to the point of disgust, of disbelief, of calling Dr. Diamond a liar, by members of this body including the Chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. The appropriate branch to do the study would have been the planning division of the Health Department or an outside consultant. I offered these two alternatives to the committee. They could not accept either one. The bill laid in committee and then when I filed the motion to raise the bill Senator Cullan then moved to kill it and it was killed. It isn't always a practice around here, in terms of senatorial courtesy, but it has been understood I know at least in Senator Carsten's committee and some others that when a senator files a motion to raise a bill from committee that has not been killed that no action is taken on that bill. As I say it is a courtesy that has been extended by Senator Carsten, to myself to Senator Koch, it is one that I appreciate obviously that courtesy is not thought of in the same light by Senator Cullan. As I say I realize that the bill obviously does not have 30 votes to be resurrected, I haven't worked the bill, I haven't taken a vote count. But, I feel an obligation to discuss before the members of this body, this morning, and before the general public to be made aware of some of the problems in the nursing home industry. I'm not saying that the nursing homes in Nebraska are being run atrociously or that there is... or that they should be shut down. I am saying that there are