

profit making institution. As you may recall, it was purchased a year or so ago by a hospital organization out of Texas which is a for profit health organization. It is not a nonprofit health organization. Consequently, I see no reason to treat St. Joseph Hospital any differently from the way I would treat any profit making organization which is profit makers or profit making organizations are required to pay sales tax on utilities. So even though the hospital has a wonderful name and is a wonderful organization, because it is now a part of a for profit industry, even though it provides indigent care, even though it does lots of good things, needs to pay the sales tax on the utilities. So I would oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, would you like to close on your motion please?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Governor Kerrey, himself, is in favor of this amendment and, Senator Johnson, an exemption exists right not for payment of sales tax on utilities for processing, manufacturing, refining, irrigation, and farming and these businesses are all for profit. What I am saying is, one hospital in the whole state in my district is providing care for the indigent up to \$4 million. They are not reimbursed by Medicaid. They are not reimbursed by Medicare. And what I am asking for is a simple exemption that doesn't amount to 1/100th of 1 percent of the total state budget or what is even in this 715 bill, and I think that the care and the treatment of the poor and the indigent, and in order to keep down that health care cost is just as valuable and just as important as processing, and manufacturing, and the other things that are for profit. I would urge the body to show a little understanding in this case and give this minimal \$33,000 exemption which is about what it will cost the state. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the Higgins resolution. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Excuse me, the Higgins amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Four are excused, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, I will leave it up to you how long you want to wait before we ask for a call of the house.

SPEAKER NICHOL: About ten seconds. Vote if you care to.