

suggest that this Legislature does not know. There is a process called certificate of need. I suggested last year and I suggest now that the correct procedure would be for the committee to go to study the project, give its approval or disapproval, rather than for us to approve the project as this resolution calls at the present time. I want to point also, I've handed out some more...another sheet of paper which I'd like to have you look at. There are a few questions on there. As was pointed out by Senator Lowell Johnson, we do not need to approve this resolution because the university can act without our approval. If we do not act, we only have 10 more days to act on it, the project will proceed without our approval. The medical school does have the right to issue those bonds and to finance the proposal that way without our approval. Is it good policy to pass the resolution in support of or not prior to the committee hearing? I don't think so. I think it will be better to wait for the CON committee to meet. It has been pointed out that there was supposed to be a \$47 per day rate increase to pay for the project. Senator Warner says that is not necessarily consistent with the present system of financing. The information I have indicates that 33.94 of that goes for debt service. I'd just like to call attention, at the request of the administration of Clarkson Hospital...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...I met with the administrator, and I want to point out that at this time it is my understanding that Clarkson Hospital has not signed off on this resolution. Clarkson Hospital has several very distinct complaints about this process. Clarkson Hospital sees the opportunity for substantial cooperation between UNMC and Clarkson which will reduce the cost of this project by approximately \$7 million. If you take away the 20 percent of the fudge factor for inflation, that adds another million and a half or it brings the total project saving to \$8.5 million approximately if there is further cooperation with Clarkson Hospital in some of those areas that I have indicated, particularly operating rooms. And I think it is important that we recognize and I'd like to have some of the subsequent speakers, particularly from the Appropriations Committee, address the issue as to whether or not Clarkson Hospital has, in fact, approved this year's resolution. They approved the resolution last year. They have not, to my knowledge, approved this resolution. To all of us are interested in holding down the cost of health care, \$8.5 million