

April 18, 1979

LB 172

hospital costs are probably not due to the problems we are trying to solve here. I think some of this is insurance companies for not providing out patient care and more home health care, to pay the cost of home health care. I am real concerned that we aren't expanding this service to the elderly that have problems to get to the doctor, and if we think we are going to settle, I mean, cut down costs considerably by enacting this bill, I think we are going to find out that is wrong. I think we need to work on home health care and that probably we should enact into law that insurance companies would provide out patient care. My wife happened to have a fractured wrist last summer and the insurance company told her that if the doctor would have had to operate on the wrist there would have been coverage, but since it was done in the hospital by the doctor and she went home the same day, there was no coverage at all and I think this is part of our problems that insurance companies are requiring the people to stay in the hospital. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in wholehearted opposition to the amendments to the committee amendments. Now as Senator Hoagland indicated, they take the bill back to the green copy. Now I would like to talk about that for a minute. The reason, for example, for having to amend the green copy in the first place was the fact that what we wanted to do was adopt the minimum necessary to be in compliance with the federal government, federal law, federal guidelines and federal rules and regulations. We did an analysis of the law, the rules and regulations, that sort of thing and we come up with every point that we have come in with in the committee amendments. Now the necessity, for example, for doing this could be pointed out in two or three cases, one of which is that 1122, for example, is what he wants to restore and keep is a duplication of the certificate of need review process that we are implementing. Sure, we agree that we need strong cost containment in the State of Nebraska and that is what we are giving you in LB 172 and the committee amendments to it, not going far beyond what is required by the feds. 1122, for example, gives you two things. It gives you a threshold of \$100,000 and it gives you review of health care facilities or nursing homes. Let's call a spade a spade. It gives the Department of Health review of nursing home sales. Senate bill, currently, right now in the United States Senate, Senate bill 505 and Hcuse bill 1070 are both pending. In the Senate bill the committee has already adopted and accepted the raising of the threshold from \$100,000 up to \$150,000. They have already accepted the