

April 18, 1979

LB 172

energy office requirement that the feds are using the certificate of need bill to enforce the implementation of the national energy office requirements and we are saying LB 171 in the Legislature will accomplish that same end but we don't need to put a construction crew of experts in the Health Department and also a construction crew of experts in the energy office. That would be a horrible duplication considering we also have a solar office and we also have another energy office that we already have in existence. We have given the HSAs, the health planning council of the local health planning people as much voice in this bill as we dare do and still comply with the Attorney General's opinion that you will find in the Journal of March 7th. It is in your Journal of March 7th. The Attorney General's opinion says the HSAs are private corporations. They cannot be a governmental function. They cannot perform governmental functions. You can consult with them. They can advise but you cannot designate a governmental function to them. I will have some more to say when I get up again. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of the amendments to the committee amendments. I have a couple of brief introductory remarks and then I want to discuss a couple of points. I am one of the members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and was one of the two that consistently voted to oppose amendments which did gut the bill. Contrary to what Senator Goodrich would have you believe, there is a world of difference between the bill as originally written and the bill as amended. It does gut the bill. The amendments do gut the bill. Let me talk about two particular points that I wish to discuss with you this afternoon. I handed out just about five minutes ago a copy with my initials in the corner and it is labeled, Section 1122, nursing home purchases and leases. Senator Goodrich touched on this but let me just expand upon this. There is a column that says book value. Here is a nursing home, the Pierce Manor, book value of \$294,000. The sale price, the sale price was \$1,075,000. My math is not quite as good as it used to be but that is over a three hundred percent increase, probably about three hundred and fifty percent increase. Now who do you suspect is going to pay the additional cost between what the book value of that nursing home was and what the sale price is. Well, I will tell you who is going to pay for that additional cost, the residents, and if you don't believe me just turn further,