

April 18, 1979

LB 172

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute, Senator Kahle.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Just tell him to look at the bill he gets from the hospital. He will have the answer right quick.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, what I really want to know is what we are going to be doing in either the green copy or the white copy or the amendments here that is going to change that? We still have to go through the health services agency, don't we, to satisfy the feds?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, and if we adopt the white copy, the committee amendments, we have thoroughly researched it and we will be in complete compliance where the State of Nebraska will be in complete compliance. There are eight states in the United States that are in compliance now that have been certified. We will be the ninth state if we adopt the committee amendments and not amend the committee amendments.

SENATOR KAHLE: In the rest of the time that I have, I think that is probably the answer, I don't know whether we can stand any more compliance with the federal government, if that is what it takes. I think we need to pass the stiffest bill we possibly can because evidently the health services agencies are not getting the job done. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I couldn't agree more with the comment just made by Senator Kahle. I think obviously the problem that we have in this state has been that we haven't had a strong enough process by which to deal with one of the most important problems the State of Nebraska has and that is rising health care costs. When Senator Goodrich keeps pushing his Goodrich amendments and talks about how they meet federal minimum requirements, basically what those amendments do are to leave loopholes big enough for a white elephant to walk through. That is right, a white elephant to walk through, and that is what we have been having built time after time in the State of Nebraska. It has driven up health care cost for everybody. I will give you a little bit of background on this bill and this legislation. LB 795 was introduced last year, certificate of need bill. It didn't go very far. So in November and December, a couple or three meetings were set up with different health providers and other individuals interested in health care cost containment. There was meet-