

ings. I attended those meetings. A consensus was reached, a bill was drafted and that is LB 172. That was a consensus bill with everybody supporting it but the funny thing is, everybody supports it except, everybody supports it but for the clause that affects their interest. The special interests have all got an objection to one particular amendment or one particular section, and if that is taken care of, then I am fine, I am for the bill but it doesn't get at the problem, and if you add up all those little particular problems you have a big problem. You have a bill with loopholes. You have a bill that isn't effective and that is the bill you'd have with the Goodrich amendments. I want to also point out that at the public hearing, if you will look in the bill book, there was not one person that testified in opposition to LB 172. You will see names down there from the Hospital Association, from the Medical Association, from the Nursing Home Association, each one saying I am for the bill but let's have this amendment and those amendments were totaled up and they were introduced by Senator Goodrich and the committee accepted those amendments and made a mockery of a sham, a mockery of a bill that deals with health care costs. That is what I believe that we have with the amendments. That is not what we are going to have though if you will support the consensus amendments, the consensus amendments reached by many of us working hard over the past several weeks to come up with amendments that do not go beyond the green bill but bring us back to the consensus that was reached months ago by all concerned with this issue, that we have a problem in Nebraska with health care costs. Don't mistake it. I think everybody agrees to it. A couple of points I would like to make, first off, in the last six years in Omaha the hospitals in Omaha spent about \$230 million in capital construction, \$230 million, and we have been fighting, fighting on the floor of the Legislature over capital construction bills of \$20 and \$30 million dollars and that is very important and it is a lot of money but let's think about that in the context of what we are spending on hospital costs, \$230 million in the last six years. Another important fact is concerning a bill that even Senator Goodrich has introduced recognizing the problems with health care costs in this state. That is LB 138 where the state would take over some of the county's responsibility in meeting medicaid funds. It is going to cost the state, if LB 138 is going to be passed, about \$2.8 million next year, 1980; \$6.5 million in 1981; \$9.3 million in 1982. That is tax money. That is state tax dollars. There is another problem that we have and that is with medicaid reimbursement. We had a deficit financing bill where I brought this up, medicaid reimbursement. That is money from the state, that is money from the county, that is money from the federal government and