

another thing that we ought to remember in this body and I think a lot of the problem is being incurred in the metropolitan areas. I think they are doing it for competitive reasons but you have to remember everybody in this state is paying the cost of this. We are all paying the tab. We are paying it in Grand Island. We are paying it in Columbus and we are paying it in Kearney. It doesn't make any difference where we live in Nebraska, our experience generally with Blue Cross-Blue Shield is on a statewide basis. So we have sort of a unique animal here in the health care profession. I think we are very fortunate that they do the job they are doing but I think there is some overutilization. I think there is some overbuilding and I think there is some abuses. Maybe part of it is with the system itself, with the medicaid reimbursement part of those. Part of the level of that reimbursement depends upon the depreciation. Therefore, there is a built in tendency to increase the cost or at least increase the base or the capitalization to maximize that depreciation and maximize those medicaid payments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Forty-five seconds.

SENATOR DWORAK: This bill will solve something like that. When I say this bill, I am talking about the consensus amendments that Senator Schmit has introduced. I think these amendments make a lot of sense. I think LB 172 in its present form probably wasn't tough enough if anything was the matter with it, but then to water it down more, to further make it weaker in an area of the problems facing this state and this country right now is unconscionable. I am afraid we are either going to grab the reins here in Nebraska or state by state with effective cost containment type legislation like we have right here or we are going to abdicate the total system to the federal government in the shape of national health care of some kind. That scares me. I think this is a proper reasonable approach. I think it is one this body should take. I know it is going to take courage....

SPEAKER MARVEL: Time is up.

SENATOR DWORAK: ...because you have all of your friendly purveyors of services telling you, no, that is not the way to go but I think we have to listen to the people and give them effective cost containment certificate of need legislation which the committee amendments do or the amendments, Senator Schmit's consensus amendments do.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we call on the next speaker, it is