

April 18, 1979

LB 172

my privilege to present in the North balcony from one of the finer districts in this state 18 senior high students from Hastings Senior High School and their instructor, Dick Hawes. Will you raise your hands so we can see where you are and say hello to you? Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am not going to stand up here and attempt to identify myself as an expert on the issue of certificate of need. I guess I am going to relate my experience as a Senator who has allowed this controversy to develop and who has been approached by various lobbying interests and what I have come to believe is my duty as a Senator. I have watched the committee process at work, and following the committee amendments, different groups have come to me and said these are the amendments that we are responsible for, and while we don't take credit for the entire committee package, we think the ones that we got part of and worked into that committee package are reasonable and I hope you will stand by what we like and I have to confess that a number of those were reasonable. But weighing the consensus amendments versus the committee amendments, I have come to the conclusion that the consensus amendments are a matter of philosophy. They are a bill with philosophy. The committee amendments are a bill of appeasement. They are a bill of convenience. They are a bill that simply says we can do no better than throw up our hands and allow a federal bureaucrat to stand and make the collective judgment of this body as far as what Nebraska needs as far as health care cost containment is concerned. We can do better than that and that is what the consensus amendments do. I guess I had to ask myself when I got done with being lobbied on this bill, who do I represent and it took me a moment to remember that I don't represent the bricks and mortar of nursing homes, I represent the patients and residents inside. I don't represent the hospitals or the medical equipment retailers, I happen to represent a rather economically middle ground area that really gets hit hard by medical costs. To these people, health care is not a luxury. It is a necessity, something that they do not wish to have to spend much money for and who do not have a lot of money to spend for that service and they are telling me, I assure you, that they want the most reasonable health care costs possible. None of my constituents, I assure you, have called me and said, by god, what we need is the committee amendments. They haven't asked me for that. They have talked to me about reasonable, sensible and strong health care cost containment. Imagine if you will the health care system as being a tax paid for process. Imagine if you will that the eight CAT scanners in