

April 18, 1979

LB 172

about property rights, what about the property rights of one and one half million Nebraskans who have worked and skimped and saved all of their lifetimes to acquire some property, be it a home, be it a farm, be it a business, and then find that that property is dissipated rapidly because of the cost of health care. I have said it before and I say it again, it is a sad commentary on the American way of life that we have been able to provide the best possible medical care at a cost very few of us can afford. I have said also and I repeat again that if it were not for the insurance protection many people today would be totally unable to afford the health benefits which modern technology have provided to us but the cost of that insurance has increased tremendously. I remember well the first Blue Cross-Blue Shield preferred plan that I purchased for my family. It cost \$120 annually. Today the cost is roughly ten times that much annually. All of that in the short period of about twenty years. I know that there are people here today who say that the consensus amendments will not control health care cost. I would be the first to agree. I am embarrassed that we are unable to enact in this Legislature the kind of legislation that will place an absolute limit or ceiling upon those health care costs, but notwithstanding the fact that we are not going to be as effective as we would like to be, that does not excuse us from the responsibility of doing that which we can do, which we should do, and which it is our responsibility to perform if we are going to meet the responsibilities of our constituents.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I know that there will be those who will say do not give us any more bureaucracy. We have too much already. I have used the argument myself many times. I have never been an advocate of those who would say let's pass this bill or else the feds will do it for us but I want to show here to you about five to ten pounds of federal rules and regulations which will be mandated for this body and for this state to live under if the Nebraska citizens do not take some kind of action to control health care costs. I think we have a good start here. It is not perfect. There will be ample opportunities to offer other amendments but I believe the consensus amendments are a first good step in the right direction. I ask your support and I offer in the future to listen to any other amendments that might be to your choosing to offer to this body. With all due respect, I ask for the adoption of the amendments.