

statistical, reasons to reject a certificate of need and many other reasons will result in a paper blizzard that may very well have the effect of increasing health care costs rather than reducing them and that is a gut feeling and I have no evidence to support that but I think we are going way beyond what should be done to control health care costs in the State of Nebraska and that may result, that excess made regulation may very well result in more expense rather than less. I described already how the site acquisition amendment may affect that. Unfortunately we did not divide the question. We did not have the time to discuss all of the things that you just adopted in these particular amendments. Let me point out a most serious amendment to LB 172 and that is #28. Listen to the language in the amendment which was adopted in #28. After the effective date of this act, no agency of state government may appropriate or grant funds to, or assist in any way, any person or health care facility which develops or offers any new institutional health service without first obtaining a certificate of need as required by this act. Now many of you know that the Department of Health is not under the direction of the Governor. The Governor does not control the operations of the Department of Health, rather a Board carries that function. And many of you know that the Department of Public Institutions, the Department of Welfare, the University and others carry on programs which will now have to be approved by another branch of state government and a branch of state government that is not under the control of the Governor. For example, if the State of Nebraska wishes to expand a mental health hospital, if we want to make a substantial change in an operation at Beatrice, we would have to receive the approval of the Department of Health even though the Department of Public Institutions is responsible for the operations of Beatrice. If the University of Nebraska Medical Center wants to institute an intern program or a residency program in greater Nebraska so that we can keep more rural doctors in Nebraska by making those residencies available, then, yes, they too will have to go to the Department of Health and receive approval. I think the Board of Regents and I think the Director of the Department of Public Institutions and I think the Governor who is ultimately responsible for those decisions can make them without the approval of a Board that the Governor appoints.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR CULLAN: There are many problems with this bill and you can talk all you want to about controlling health care costs, but when it comes down to it, you have to involve