

March 11, 1980

LB 877

Insurance Committee and I want to say that LB 877 comes from interim study which was as well organized and well conducted as any I have served on in my short tenure here in the Legislature. I would also frankly say that the committee itself, the Department of Insurance and several of the major insurance carriers around the state were, in essence, wrestled to the committee table to listen to evidence which proved to be compelling, evidence which I would not have suspected existed prior to that hearing, nor would I guess that the Insurance Department or other major insurance companies would have expected to exist prior to that hearing, which showed, I felt, conclusively a pattern of deception, a pattern of preying upon the elderly as a prime source of unjust enrichment by fly-by-night operations, and from that relatively reluctant group of studiers of the issue I think there was forged an alliance of people who felt as I do that LB 877 is a necessity. It is in the guise of a rather humid Tuesday afternoon at 3:32 a major bill and it doesn't sound in this body as if it is being treated with the respect that it should be, and, in fact, I tell you that as far as solving problems goes, as far as addressing an issue with legislation, 877 is right on target and it deserves our attention. It deserves our commitment and frankly deserves our vote. Repeatedly, senior citizens came and gave evidence both on their own and under affidavit of repeated attempts by sales people who passed themselves off in various tricky ways as representatives of Medicare, or representatives of the federal government, or representatives of Social Security, checking up on their Medicare benefits. Once the door was open they sold a fourth, fifth, sixth or seventh policy, which, in fact, did very little. I was surprised. I was appalled by the evidence that I heard in that interim study, and if you do not wish to accept the word of those of the members on the committee who will testify to this, I ask you to go back to the interim study report and you will find a body of evidence that is surprising in its depth and volume. All I can say is that LB 877 is well researched and well founded, not in a national trend, but in a very real phenomenon that exists in Nebraska, that is evinced by dozens of affidavits by senior citizens who feel duped by the way they were handled by nefarious insurance writers. I also want to say that this measure has the support of a number of responsible elements of the insurance community who wish to purge from their ranks speculative and....

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

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