

hospitals and the counties were not necessarily operating in the same fiscal year and so they thought that since the hospital keeps these records anyway and it was not necessary, there was no reason for the county treasurer to become involved and duplicate the effort.

SENATOR KAHLE: One other question. Do you know what sort of bonding is required of the hospital treasurer now?

SENATOR CULLAN: No, Senator, I don't. I am not sure.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, I guess it sounds all right, but in a small county where these funds are so closely tied with what the county treasurer does I guess I am concerned that we are fragmenting that authority and causing probably some expense to be involved because of the extra bonding and the extra work that would be involved. I wish I had looked at this a little bit sooner because I don't want to oppose the bill if I don't know what I am talking about. But I feel that it is a problem and I wonder why if Omaha is the one that wants the bill why the rest of it should be changed. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I support Senator Cullan's measure. I have served on a county hospital board for a good many years in a small county and I think that the comments he made are correct, that there is a lot of duplication under the present system. I know that in our county hospital our hospital board was doing most of the work or our secretary was doing most of the work and then it was duplication again on the county treasurer's part. I see no reason why there should be this type of duplication. The funds are handled differently in some counties. I know that in some counties the county treasurer keeps all the hospital surplus that they might have and invest it and the money is then used in the county...the interest from this is used in the county general fund. I think most of the counties do return the money or the interest back to the hospital fund, but this isn't true in all cases. But there is a lot of duplication and I can see no reason why we need two treasurers. In other words, I don't know the situation that Senator Kahle is talking about in his district but it seems to me that in most cases we would be eliminating a lot of duplication by letting the hospital board appoint their own treasurer