

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and Senators, I first have to correct my two colleagues, Senator Fowler and Senator Marsh, and I am going to have to read again what Senator Labeledz read to them the last time we debated this, from the Family Planning Prospective magazines. And I quote: Blue Cross Coverage. "Information on Blue Cross based on 66 of a total of 74 regional plans was supplied by the Blue Cross Association in response to a request for information in July, 1976." And then under the heading of Rider they said: "Forty-two Blue Cross plans provide coverage under a rider as well as under the basic plan. The 8 plans that do not cover abortion in their basic plan have abortion coverage available under a rider only or under a rider in conjunction with major medical coverage". Now that is what Senator Labeledz read to them the last time we debated it. She didn't say, and I didn't say we were going to mandate that they do it. We just said that they are doing it and they can do it here if they so elect. I am sure most of you in this body remember that great singer Bing Crosby, and probably a lot of you realize that good old der Bingle had ears that stuck way out, and when he made a movie they always taped his ears back. And all of us love Bob Hope who makes fun of his own large what he calls the ski jump nose, and who will ever forget Jimmy Durante and his large schnoz. Now I wonder why insurance companies and particularly in this case for public employees, why don't we mandate that they have got to cover hair transplants for baldheaded men? Probably because they know too many men that have bald heads would be asking for it. And those of us who aren't satisfied with the shape of our nose, we might mandate that all public employees at state expense are going to be able to go and have their noses enlarged or made smaller, and I could go on and on about elective surgeries that if we want we can tell Blue Cross, by golly you are going to give these people the right to have all this elective surgery. I can see why Blue Cross would not want to offer abortion insurance as they do maternity benefits. Let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, maternity benefits the most they can pay off on is once every nine months. But if they are forced to pay off on abortion insurance, well, that is like Russian Roulette. Maybe they can pay off once a month, maybe once every two months. Heaven knows how often they would have to pay for it. Even the gall bladder you only remove once. So I think Blue Cross is probably trying to tell us that the reason they don't want to offer it is because they know it will be demanded too often, it will be a losing proposition, it will raise the cost of insurance for all other public employees. But if you are going to allow people to have elective surgery and you want it so that the state pays for it, then let's not stop with abortion. Let's put hair transplants in there,