

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I can't speak on this bill like Senator Wesely did but I am going to support the bill. I have had a problem within my own district where we had to buy a new boiler for the hospital and we had to go through this certification of need which made it very difficult for that hospital to operate, and I feel by raising this amount from \$150,000 to \$600,000 will correct that particular problem. And as far as the doctors and getting equipment, I think the competition will take care of it. I know it will because they are not going to invest in new equipment that is going to cost them a tremendous amount of money if there is some other equipment within that same vicinity. So I feel there is a need of readjusting our sights in a bill of this kind and I am going to support Senator Cullan with this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: (Microphone not on.) I am not even on. There I am.

SENATOR CLARK: No, you are not on. Hold it just a moment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I hope it didn't count against my time.

SENATOR CLARK: You are on now.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I am having a Page circulate some material that comes from a White Paper recently prepared by the local health service agency in Omaha and what this shows, you will find a Table 19 that indicates the net income in Omaha of nonprofit hospitals for the year 1980 plus the cash and liquid assets of those hospitals for the year 1980. You will note at the top of the list is Clarkson Hospital in Omaha with cash and liquid assets of \$18 million dollars and a net income in 1980 of \$10 million. You will notice Immanuel Hospital with cash and liquid assets of \$17 million and a net income, that is not a loss, but a net income of \$7 million. You will notice the Nebraska Methodist Hospital has cash and liquid assets of \$8 million and had a net income in 1980 or 1979, actually, in that case, of \$5,571,000 and right on down the line. Now what the certificate of need legislation consistently has been designed to do, it has been designed to control the heretofore uncontrolled capital expansion of health care facilities in our state. Our health care facilities frankly are making a lot of money at our expense. They are making a lot of money through our tax dollars in the medicare and medicaid programs and they are making a tremendous amount of money