

floor that there had to be some mechanism whereby we could hold down health care costs. Senator Labeledz has discussed some of the points which I think are worthy of discussion. Senator Higgins discussed the helicopter. It is kind of interesting. I have a little interest in that. At one time I made a bid to the major hospitals in Omaha to provide that service. It's been many years ago and at that time it was felt that it was not feasible. Maybe it was the man who made the application for all I know, but in any case shortly after I got out of the helicopter business they did provide that kind of service. One of the gentlemen who provides the most recent service was a former employee of mine and a good one. And I guess it is like anything else, if you happen to be the person who gets picked up by the helicopter and hauled to the hospital and it saves your life, it is very well worth the investment. Otherwise it is like paying for the fire engine. You know, you don't like to pay for that if you don't need it. But I want to point out something that I think is totally wrong. I think again we are attempting and I would have to agree with Senator Wesely on this, we are trying to draft major legislation on this floor and it is almost impossible. It is almost impossible. Let me point out something and I... my only source of information for this is the Lincoln Journal and so I hesitate to rely upon it too heavily. In the past it hasn't been all that accurate. But reading some of the information that I have seen in the Journal, I want to call your attention to what has happened here in the City of Lincoln with an application by Bryan Memorial to remodel their facility. They made the application to remodel the facility and again I am speaking in a broad....in broad terms so don't hold me to the specifics. At the time they made the application they anticipated a total expenditure of about \$25 million based upon 10 percent interest costs. Now by the time they got it through the review procedure, which took in excess of a year, the interest costs had risen to 14 percent. Well, we all know what that did to the cost of the remodeling project. As I understand, it raised it to about \$35 million. So then Bryan Memorial Hospital came back and asked for permission to spend the additional \$10 million because of the interest cost. And again as I understand, they were denied...they were denied the permission to spend the additional \$10 million and told in effect that they had to live under the \$25 million limitation. The point I want to raise is this, and the point that I want to discuss with Senator Wesely and others who are for cost containment, is, number one, why in the name of common sense did it take in excess of a year for the system to work? Number two, if the purpose is to hold down health care costs, and that is what all of us had in mind when we promoted