

this idea.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: You have about 30 seconds.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Why should we allow the review procedure to increase the cost of a facility by \$10 million? And we are working against ourselves. I will have some more comments later on, but I think that is the primary question. Why is the procedure so cumbersome that the procedure in itself contributes to the cost? That may well be why the bill needs to go back to committee.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in support of Senator Wesely's amendment. It strikes me as I have been observing the debate on certificate of need that the Legislature divides itself into two camps. There is the one camp that says, the less regulation we place on health care providers the better. And that appears to be the prevailing camp. And there is a second camp that says, the more carefully we craft our regulation of health care providers the better off medical consumers are in the State of Nebraska, and that camp appears to be losing the battle. Now it is so easy for any of us here to decide which camp we are in and to then look to an individual as the leader of that camp, Senator Cullan in the former case and Senator Wesely in the latter case. And when Senator Cullan votes red, if we have already concluded we are in that camp, we vote red. And if Senator Wesely votes red, and we are in that camp, Senator Wesely's camp, then we vote red. But what Senator Wesely is now proposing in my opinion transcends this whole question of what you really think of certificate of need. What he is proposing here deals with a value system that I think is the appropriate value system for all government, and that is this. If government in our society is to work and to work well, it needs to be kept simple. People know and understand and respect simple government. Now why is it that we as lawmakers persist in making government more and more and more complicated? What our certificate of need bill will have in it if Senator Wesely's amendment is not adopted is a two-tiered system of administrative appeals. The first tier is the certificate of need review committee. That is an administrative committee with independent decision makers on that committee. If the Health Department, according to Senator Cullan's amendment that is going to come on Select File, is dissatisfied with the results of that committee, or if a health care provider