

Colorado, Dr. John Berg, who writes about the registry system in Colorado and he notes that for a number of years that Colorado had a voluntary registry system which was not a very good system. He said they finally went to a mandatory system and it is not much more effective. He said the cost for complete coverage in Colorado presently is about \$140,000 a year. Now Colorado is a state that is about four times the population of Nebraska. Wisconsin has a cancer registry system in place today that is very much like the system we're talking about in Nebraska and the annual cost is \$70,000 a year. Thus, when our fiscal analysts said this system is likely to cost us \$62,500 this year plus, I think it is about \$70,000 next year, I didn't quibble with the figure. I figured that is probably an appropriate figure. It is not a large amount of money. Now people have asked me from time to time, what about cigarette tax money? Can't we use cigarette tax money? And so I went back to Senator Warner and I said to him, "Jerry, how can I get some of that cigarette tax money used to fund the cancer registry system?" And Senator Warner said, "Well, it is very simple." He said, "You know, we have allocated \$300,000 right now for cancer research. I personally doubt that the Department of Health will be able to fully commit the \$300,000 and what will happen is when the Department of Health comes before the Appropriations Committee for authority to appropriate we can reduce specifically the \$300,000 to a lower figure for research and then plug in the additional amount into the registry system." He said, "Vard," he says, "It doesn't make any difference whether you fund this from general fund money or whether you fund this from cigarette tax money. It all comes out the same." Now I have a hard time understanding this. You know how Jerry is but I believe he is correct. It all comes out the same. You never do anything totally free. You never do anything totally on the cheap but I don't think \$62,500 is a large amount of money for us to put into place a system which will have ultimate benefits to all of our society. In fact some of the cancer researchers that I have been talking to about this have indicated to me that you can see benefits from a registry system within two years, within two years after you put it in place because you really can find places in that short a period of time that you've got particular instances of cancer developing and you could go down with preventive maintenance programs and you can begin to stop cancer in some of the earliest stages in individuals and if we can get those kinds of results in that short of period of time, I think it is well worth our small expenditure of dollars to set up a system and put it into place and to set up a good system and to fund it. I would move the bill.