

was built on a public hearing as a second house of this Unicameral body and that this building was built with the concept in mind that the salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen. Well the citizen can be very watchful but if he doesn't have a chance to speak out on an issue or if he doesn't have a chance to participate in decision making on the state level on an issue that directly and sincerely affects him, then those are hollow words and that is a hollow concept. And it seems to me that this bill is echoing in that hollow sort of a feeling that the public has been ignored. I think that clearly some effort has to be made to deal with the Certificate of Need issue. I have no doubts that that is true, but as Senator Schmit talked about and I think as others have commented on the floor, the question of health care cost is bigger than Certificate of Need, and that it is a bigger issue than deserves the sort of attention it has received by this Legislature to this point. It should be the subject of a much more intensive review than has been the case. Yet we are trying to deal on the floor with a series of amendments on General File and a series of amendments on Select File and the bill is taking up a great deal of time of this Legislature. My feeling is that that would be time better spent on other issues and that we should take the time over the interim to consider the breadth of the issues involved with this matter, involve the public, and come to some conclusions that we can then present in the form of a bill next session. In lieu of that it seems to me that what we have is a mess, basically, and that is what you have before you in the form of LB 378. I don't think anybody can deny the importance of health care cost and their impacts on the people of this state. I have just passed out a figure that was provided that I think is very telling of the problem of health care. It shows the percentage increase of per capita national health care expenditures in comparison to per capita national disposable personal income and you can see from this chart when we talk about the skyrocketing costs of health care this chart bears it out better than anything else I could do. It shows that we were at a level of slightly better than 4% in 1950 and then I believe the year, it might be about 1976 or 1977, we are closer to 18% of disposable personal income being spent on health care. Tremendous increase, all figures that we have indicate that health care costs are far outstripping the consumer price indexes. We need to do something about the problem, and if you talk to people, they understand health care costs are outrageous. My mother brought out a figure from the Butler County Hospital where I was born not that long ago which shows that the cost of that whole operation was less than \$100, bargain. At today's standards that would be several thousand dollars in some cases and it seems to me