

legislative response. This whole issue has been an interesting study in the nature of the legislative process and also in the nature of the administrative process. Without any serious question the people in our country are increasingly alarmed over health care costs. They are alarmed that they are going to be compelled to pay large sums of monies when they go to hospitals. They are alarmed that they will not be able to finance their care in quality nursing homes. Employers are extremely nervous about the kind of benefit packages and package costs that they have to pay for employees. The time is really coming at hand when Congress and legislators, legislatures, have to deal responsibly with health care costs. We are basically pleased with the kind of technological and medical system that we have for the delivery of health but we're extremely nervous about the cost because it is going up too dramatically, too rapidly. So we have shopped around for some kinds of solutions and one of the early solutions that came out was the solution proposed by certificate of need legislation which was federally created, not state created, but federally created and in 1979 this Legislature dealt with a mandated certificate of need requirement by the federal government. We took that legislation and we went to an independent Health Department. At that time the Health Department was not under the Governor'segis. It was an independent Health Department and we asked that Health Department for real assistance in coming up with a responsible, workable certificate of need law and the Health Department was good. In fact, I have felt over the last four years that the kind of help that we received from the Health Department in 1979 represents almost governmental help at its best because those were thoughtful, careful people who knew whereof they spoke and I was very pleased by that quality of state service because of the great competency and care that those persons demonstrated and exercised. But after that passed what we have seen happen again is how the affected industry in its own way resistant to the kinds of changes that are beginning to work themselves through the body of politics spend lots of time and money to slowly and gradually undo what the consumers have tried and what the Legislature has tried to get effected. We have seen the Health Department become a state agency as opposed to having it being an independent agency. We have seen its people, in effect, hold off this issue, not being as helpful. To a Legislature there does really need to be help because we sure don't have the answers to all the problems. In fact, sometimes we have a hard time understanding the problems, let alone developing answers. We've also seen the health care industry mount a very extensive lobbying campaign...