

March 4, 1982

LB 378

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...to, in effect, continue to sell legislators on the concept of free enterprise is all that can work and the government has no appropriate role in containing health care costs. And so what we have found happening today is a basic weakening of the certificate of need legislation that we, as persons of good faith and good will, implemented in 1979. Now we continue to work for solutions. Now we know there is never an ultimate solution to a problem but you go step by step by step and what we're going to be offering during the remaining days of this legislative session will be other reasonable responses to health care costs, this time essentially created by the Legislature itself without that kind of independent outside help, the kinds of things that do have to percolate up from the grass roots so to speak, so that we, in effect, can have adequate medical services for all persons at reasonable costs. Now it strikes me that the appropriate thing for us to do today is to go ahead and move this bill, understanding how the needs of the persons have been eroded, the effective people have been eroded and then wait and reserve final judgement until Final Reading when we will present to you some proposals that I think have another reasonable and right step to take in the long standing struggle to curtail health care costs.

PRESIDENT: Before we go to the close and, Senator Cullan, we are ready to close, I would like to...the Chair takes pleasure in introducing some 24 foreign students from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Judy Wendorf teacher. They are up here in the North balcony. We would like to welcome you to the unique Nebraska Unicameral, the only one of its kind in the United States. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. We are ready then, Senator Cullan, for you to close on your motion to advance LB 378.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I move for the advancement of LB 378. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for the courtesy and I think the logic shown this morning by opponents of LB 378 in withdrawing the numerous amendments and others that I understand were coming to this bill. We all know that any bill without thirty votes at this stage of the process can be killed by procedural maneuvering and if we are to engage in stacking amendment on amendment after bill, whether it be this one or some other bill that we oppose, a very small group of people can thwart effectively the bills that the great majority of the Legislature would desire to pass. So I think it is wise that we're not going to engage in that on this issue and hopefully we won't do that on too many other issues because we only have twenty-four business days left