

March 31, 1982

LB 942

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Higgins and Schmit would move to amend the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, my amendment reads thus: 1. In the Committee Amendments, REQ 2852, on page 2, line 15, after the underscored period insert "No payments shall be made by the Department of Public Welfare to any vendor, under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, as a reimbursement for dues to any professional association or for fees or travel expenses to attend workshops or meetings conducted by such professional associations." We just adopted an amendment that says we are not going to pay for optional services such as prosthetic devices as I exemplified, an artificial leg or false teeth, but the Department of Welfare pays for these people who want to belong to a professional association. They pay their dues. They pay their travel expenses. And I want to read to you one of the things that the Department of Welfare has been funding for the Nebraska Health Care Association members. Now this is one of the meetings that they called. "Due to increased union activity in the long term care sector, Nebraska Health Care Association has revised our 'education calendar' to provide administrators with up to the minute information on how to create a work environment that will help prevent union activity and what can be legally done if a unionization attempt occurs. Note: This program will replace the hospice program originally scheduled for March 6 and 7th. The hospice program will be rescheduled at a later date." That means that the Department of Welfare gets to pay for another conference, seminar, education thing. I am reading from their own notice to the Nebraska Health Care Association members that the taxpayers have been paying for. "Increasing spectra of unionization makes attendance of this workshop essential. Where and When: March 7th at the Holiday Inn at Kearney. March 8th at the New Tower Motel in Omaha. Program: Registration and nine to twelve, How To Create A Work Environment That Will Make Unionization Unlikely. Then lunch and then a talk on Labor Laws And Case Histories." And get this, I am talking about nursing homes and how well educated their administrators are. "Educational credit. This program has been approved for six hours of continuing education credit for nursing home administrators." I think that is marvelous the taxpayers are paying for nursing home administrators to attend conventions to tell them not how to run a nursing home but how to fight a union. Now everybody knows that I am not in love with the unions and the unions aren't in love with me. This is just one example. God only knows what else the taxpayers have been paying for