

March 31, 1982

LB 942

SENATOR HIGGINS: The amendment just says that the Department of Public Health and Welfare will no longer pay their association dues and fees or their travel expenses. Let them pay them themselves.

SENATOR NEWELL: Okay.

SENATOR HIGGINS: We are trying to cut the budget.

SENATOR NEWELL: Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I support the amendment and am pleased to be on it with Senator Higgins. I believe it reflects the thinking of this body and it reflects the thinking that is necessary if we are going to continue the effort to hold down health care costs and I would certainly encourage you to support that amendment vigorously. It is a very forthright step in the right direction and one which I am sure will be admired by everyone in a year or so as we look back and see what we have really done here.

SENATOR CLARK: Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I support the Higgins amendment as well. In calculating Medicaid reimbursements, the Department of Public Welfare looks at those cost items that go into a reimbursable base and they obviously look at a lot of different items that make up the costs of any health care provider providing care. Well, I happened to see fairly recently, I think, I don't recall whether it was the Nebraska Hospital Association or whether it was a national health care association or what have you sent a newsletter out and I had an idle moment and I was looking through the newsletter and I noted where the Department of Health and Education and Welfare, I guess it is now Health and Human Services, in Washington, D.C., had specifically said, had specifically said that states could include in the reimbursement base whatever the costs were of any health care provider in resisting a labor union. So if the health care provider spent \$15,000 bringing in a management consultant, the sole purpose of which was to fight organization, that cost, that \$15,000 could be included in the overall cost of the health care provider for purposes of Medicaid reimbursement. And I looked at that and I genuinely was startled. I really was because I didn't think that had much to do with the delivery of health care services, and if Senator Higgins is attempting to get at that, she says she is, sounds like her