

Now if there needs to be more clarifying amendments, Senator Higgins, if you want to deal with your question about which are appropriate subject matters, you might want to offer an amendment that would say that it would have to be directly related to the efficiency of the operation, those courses being authorized. But the purpose here is to say that where we mandate administrators in order to keep their license to take the additional credit hours that we reimburse them. The association fees would be separate and we would not be reimbursing those and that it is to create a philosophical cleanliness to the amendment that is adopted.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, it was my amendment, not the Legislature's. My intent was to have an amendment passed that would take money away from the Department of Welfare so that we would have more money for medicaid. That was my intent. Senator Cullan's amendment was to do away with optional services. I maintain that paying dues and travel expenses for health care institution members is something a lot less than an optional service. Now if we mandate they get credit hours, that is fine. We mandate teachers to get so many credit hours a year, too. We mandate that doctors do it. We mandate that a lot of organizations do but we don't pay all of their dues and we don't pay their motels and we don't pay their travel expenses and here we do. This is a poor example. I am sorry it is the only one I had was when they said they were going to have a meeting on how to fight a union. I am sure there would be more people for this amendment, even though we did get 26 votes, if this was just on the original program they planned to attend called "Hospice Program". Now the Department of Welfare doesn't do anything hardly to check on what goes on at these conventions and such that we are paying for, the taxpayers are paying for, and which is coming out of what would be more money for medicaid funds. So I appreciate Senator Newell's intention to clarify the point and for him to state what he thinks the Legislature's intent was but my intent was this, to show whether or not you think it is important that we pay travel and dues expenses for nursing home personnel or if we eliminate that and then medicaid funds will go further. And if you prefer to send somebody on a trip to take a seminar as opposed to using the money to buy more penicillin, or pay more health care expenses, then you will stay with my amendment and defeat the Newell amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? All those in favor of ceasing debate will vote