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no objections but, Senator Warner, if you would care to comment on this, I know it was kind of in a hurry when I presented it to you. Basically, that is the amendment, to continue to get medicare funds from the federal government I would like to increase the hospital and nursing home per bed cost \$5 a year, and that will give the Health Department the \$150,000 the federal government took away from them because it will come back to them through the medicare payments they get from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Warner, did you wish to speak to this?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, Senator Higgins did speak to me about it and I don't know if I didn't have an objection. I don't think I had an opinion, I guess, Senator Higgins. There was some indication from some of these at the hearings from the medical or those representing particularly the hospitals of too much of an increase in some of those inspection fees and their argument, of course, was that it would add to the medical cost that eventually the individuals who are staying at the hospital would be paying. I think you are suggesting a part of that would come from medicaid in any event and in those cases I assume that is valid. I am not sure what the situation is with a private patient who is not covered by medicaid, or I assume insurance picks it up but that is reflected in rates. I do not specifically have objection to Senator Higgins' proposal. I am more at a loss to know whether or not it would create a lot of opposition from the hospitals and that I cannot answer, or excuse me, nursing homes.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Higgins, did you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes. Mr. President, I visited with the Nebraska Hospital Association representatives out in the rotunda and they said they have absolutely no objections to it, that it is merely a pass through cost, that it comes back to them through medicare. What we are doing here is saying, pay this \$10 or \$5 increase per bed and when the hospitals and nursing homes submit their bills to the government it is part of their cost of operation so part of it comes back to them. Now because these institutions are causing the inspections and because they reap the benefits of medicare, I think 46, 47 percent of the people in nursing homes alone according to their representative in the rotunda get some form of medicare or medicaid reimbursement for their patients. And we are talking about a