

in knowing that I come from a district which has, I think, some of the finest nursing homes in Nebraska and possibly in the world. I say that with some, I hope, authority. A sister of mine did her thesis on nursing homes and she traveled the worldwide over looking at them and very interestingly, when she got close to home she found that we had some of the very best ones she had ever seen right in my legislative district. I would just suggest that we've got to recognize that some of the problems that Senator Higgins described do exist and we have to recognize that if we close our eyes to those problems, then we must accept some of the responsibility for those conditions. I make it a practice as I travel through the country to stop and visit nursing homes and I want to commend many of them for the fine job they do but I have found some conditions which I do not believe we can condone and I'm afraid that many times it is a true statement that out of sight is out of mind and I know that it is awfully easy for us to say, well that is not our responsibility, we can't do this and it is government red tape and all that sort of thing. It is interesting to me that we can be awfully concerned about how some farmer handles his soil, about how some farmer handles his livestock, about how some farmer handles those inanimate objects which are under his control. We are concerned about highway safety. We are concerned about many other areas that are perhaps not nearly as important as the care and help for our aged. We have to remember that in many cases people who are in these homes do not have anyone who is near and dear to them to look out for them and I can tell you very frankly that in some instances the kind of care that you would want for your loved one is just not there. And again I say, that the majority of them are no doubt doing an excellent job. I do not believe that the bill which Senator Higgins proposes will have an adverse impact upon those nursing homes which are doing a good job. I think that we have to recognize that there is going to be some people who are going to complain. We have to recognize there are going to be some people who will talk about increased costs but I would suggest to you that those costs are going to be there for a variety of reasons and we are not going to increase those costs by guaranteeing that there are certain minimum standards as are prescribed in Senator Higgins' bill. I would suggest that when you recognize the vast amount of tax dollars that go to nursing homes and you recognize also that those individuals who are competent and capable of paying their own expenses are paying a substantial fee for a service, that we have a right to expect the same high quality care in all nursing homes and I can say very frankly that some good nursing home administrators have spoken to me and have expressed concern about Senator Higgins' bill. I've tried to reassure them that Senator Higgins is not one who wants to get the nursing home. She wants to guarantee