

April 13, 1982

LB 378

CLERK: The next motion I have is offered by Senator Newell. Senator Newell would move to return LB 378 to Select File for a specific amendment and that amendment is on page 920 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell. You withdraw that motion? All right, the motion is withdrawn. The next motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Newell would like to return LB 378 to Select File for a specific amendment.

SENATOR NEWELL: ...wish to withdraw that amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right, that motion is also withdrawn.

SENATOR NEWELL: It doesn't seem like the right way to do these things.

PRESIDENT: Next motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is offered by Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit would move to return LB 378 to Select File for a specific amendment. That is request #2829. I believe copies have been distributed.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I do not want to take a lot of time but I do want to call attention to these amendments. I believe they are important. I believe that they recognize some of the weaknesses in the present system. I think Senator Cullan touched upon the fact, and I apologize that they are extensive and that they are late, and I recognize the problems that develop when you try to work with a problem as complicated as health care. But the amendments are an attempt to do several things. First of all, if you will look at the second sheet of explanations, the amendment is an attempt to shorten up the process whereby you can acquire a certificate of need. At the present time, and you've heard Senator Cullan refer to this and I have referred to it, the lengthy process in obtaining a certificate of need requires many times the amount of effort that ought to be imposed upon all of the parties that are involved. Number two, the lengthy process also very seriously increases the cost sometimes as happened in the case of the Bryan project regardless of who was at fault. The cost of the money went, I believe, from 10% to 14%, increased the cost of the project by some \$11 million. That should not happen. There is no reason for it to happen. Now I recognize and I know it is going to