

may not be much money in the overall scheme of this project, but...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...\$8.5 million, ladies and gentlemen, will be paid for not by General Fund dollars, but by taxpayer dollars. When your Blue Cross-Blue Shield premium comes, when the Mutual of Omaha Insurance premium comes, that's how we will pay for it, through increased costs of health care. I'm not against the project if there is a definite need for it, I'm not against the project per se, but I have some ideas which I think ought to be discussed here this morning. First and foremost ought to be discussed, the degree of cooperation between Clarkson and UNMC. I suggest to you that it is much less than most of you believe. I suggest it ought to be substantially greater. I suggest that if we pass this resolution as is today, we are locking the university into a proposal which is unnecessarily expensive and which does not provide for maximum cooperation between...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...the Clarkson Hospital and UNMC. I do not believe any of us want that. I'll have more to say later.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lindsay, followed by Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of the resolution and I just have a couple of comments I guess on it. First, I think there has been some information passed around and mentioned on the floor about the number of hospital beds in Omaha and the occupancy rate of the hospitals declining. It is my understanding that this project does not propose to add any additional beds, but rather is an attempt to increase and improve the outpatient facilities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I don't think the number of beds in the city has any bearing on this particular project. I don't think that is the intent of the Med Center and I don't think that should be entering into the discussions. As a general rule, I think the University of Nebraska produces very quality medical professionals. I don't think that while we do have to keep an eye on health care costs, I don't think that should be done at the expense of quality health care professionals. I think that the current movement in the medical profession, or in