

repeat and not go through the charade, but that is all I'm going to have to say at this time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I am concerned. I can understand Senator Schmit's frustration with the system and how it works, but to shoot the system because it failed, I think in this case, could be the wrong approach. I'll say it now and I'll remind you again probably later in the debate that long before we had certificate of need and we're dealing with a profession that was doing business on a cost plus basis. I think most of you people who are in the farming business never bought a tractor until you found out how much it cost first. Nobody bought a bathroom from me unless they knew what it cost. But in health care for some reason or another, when you get sick you go to the hospital and then the insurance company gets the bill and that's okay. Before certificate of need, and we were doing business on a cost plus basis, we built about 1,500 too many beds in Omaha, Nebraska. That had an awful lot to do with the cost of health care and even though that was a long time ago that cost is still being assumed by too many people who get sick because those institutions in some cases were just simply greedy, like building too many gas stations just because you had all that money in the bank and sooner or later you had to close those down for obvious economic reasons. You need some kind of system and checks and balances. To throw out a system of certificate of need now would be the wrong thing to do. I hate to use the word signal of send out, some deregulation I guess is justified in almost any industry so that competition can prevail. National level, President Reagan established the DRG system for about 460 some procedures. That probably did more than anything else to regulate the industry because they knew they wouldn't get paid, just so much money for a certain procedure and they just couldn't, unfortunately, and I think unrealistically and in a very selfish way, just continue to expand and spend money. I have some concerns about the liberalization of the certificate of need. I'm not sure what kind of trigger there will be to justify expanding or not, but on the other hand I would hope that we just wouldn't agree to do away with certificate of need at all. 429 did, in fact, have in it a provision for sunseting certificate of need and with the permission of the chief sponsor, Senator Baack and others, in committee that section was deleted, and rightfully so. Just like to say move cautiously. When you talk about health care