

PRESIDENT: Time. Senator Labeledz, please, followed by Senator Hall, then Senator Elmer.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I thank Senator Chambers for asking that last question, because that really brought to light what we're thinking and talking about here, and perhaps I couldn't have done it better than when he asked the question of Senator Wesely. In 1979, Senator Chambers, when the certificate of need was passed it had a grandfather clause which gave all the hospitals, that had projects or were in place at the time, as of September 1, 1979, the right to continue. But many hospitals, at that time, began projects or procedures simply to beat that September 1, 1979 deadline, and that is the reason that they are now not...necessarily have to go to the certificate of need. They are in there, they're grandfathered in, but no other hospital has ever gone through the certificate of need process for open heart surgery in Nebraska, other than Bergan Mercy. And it...Senator Chambers, also mentioned the feud between St. Joseph and St. Catherine's Hospital. As I said in the beginning, it bothers me considerably that two Catholic hospitals can't get together and come to some compromise or agreement, but evidently they can't. But I want to stress, Senator Chambers, that the reason, and, Senator Wesely, you know it and I know it, the reason they were denied the open heart surgery by the panel was because of our rules and our regulations. And I've said that once before today. What we're trying to do here with LB 429 is modify that. When it was on General File I read you several paragraphs from the Federal Trade Commission letter that says Nebraska needs modification in their CON laws. And, if we don't do it now with LB 429, we are guilty of not giving the quality of care that our patients deserve. I can recall Senator Pirsch gave us the story of her husband. I took my husband from a cabin, on the Platte River, all the way into a hospital with chest pains, stomach pains also, did not know at the time that he was having a heart attack. Now I took him to the University Hospital. Had I known he was having a heart attack I would have taken him to St. Joe's Hospital. I'm not a nurse, I'm not a doctor. I knew that he was in terrible pain and fortunately he was only have a blood problem and did not require heart surgery. But I would have been furious had that hospital or any hospital that I'd taken him to say that we have to transfer him to another hospital at the critical time that he is needing heart surgery. Senator Chambers mentioned the feud between the two teams, Nebraska and