

need, in some instances, the need for open heart surgery by identifying dead heart tissue, to determine in advance whether or not the surgery is necessary. Apparently in early 1988 the FDA approved a thrombolytic agent which would dissolve blood clots, and again eliminate the need for some I believe it's bypasses. And there is also the increased use of angioplasty. As I also mentioned in my opening, in 1987, there were more open heart surgeries in Omaha than there were in 1988, that figure is down. Whether there is a connection, I'm not sure, but I think it's safe to say that the need for open heart surgery is not going to increase as the medical technology increases. I think it's going to decrease. It also comes back to the...what I think is important, very important thrust of the issue, and that is that as the number of open heart surgeries performed at a particular institution decreases the mortality rate increases.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: While we are talking about cost containment in hospitals, while we are talking about money that one hospital might make and another might not make, while we are talking about unmet needs, the issue comes down to this could very easily result in a higher mortality rate. And I ask you, what could be more important than that. We're talking about the patients. We're talking about patient's lives. Finally, I think it was mentioned during the debate that CON committee and the appeal board met for hour, after hour, after hour discussing this issue or hearing evidence on this issue. I feel it is unwise for this body, to come in after...while it's been a good debate, I don't think it matches the evidence that was brought before that board and before that appeal board. I think it's wiser, in this case, when we're talking about such a serious issue, to defer to the judgment of those who listen to the evidence, who heard those involved and heard the arguments, I think in this case...

PRESIDENT: Time has expired.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...it's best to defer to their judgment. I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HALL: I would like a roll call vote in regular order.