

been paying and paying and paying for a plan for five or six years we have known has been an expensive one and not featuring the sort of cost containment that we should have adopted back five or six years ago. Nevertheless, I don't think we have much option at this point, but my concern again...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...is that I do acknowledge that we are putting \$35,000 from the Department of Personnel to study the current health insurance plan, again the Personnel Department being in the executive branch. This Legislature has got to get a handle on health care costs. We are facing again this issue and other issues in the budget that are costing us millions and millions of dollars, \$100 million in additional health care costs over the next biennium, and we are yet to have any sort of solutions as to what to do about this problem, and our solution today to deal with the health insurance plan for state employees is to have the executive branch take a look at the issue. I really think that again later on I am going to be making a motion to override a \$36,000 veto to get a health care cost index going in this state. Why are our health care costs going up so much?

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: Where are they going up so much? And why am I running out of time so quickly? Let me...

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, this resolution from the Appropriations Committee relative to the problem of health insurance in the State of Nebraska is one which is of considerable interest to all of us. I want to emphasize again, because if I don't, I am sure someone will, that I am member of the Board of Directors of Blue Cross and they pay me \$5,000 a year. So I want that on the record. I want to emphasize that I am not going to participate in any great length in this debate but I just want to sort of reiterate some of the words that were stated here earlier, that is that health care costs continue to escalate, and that the insurance carrier in this instance is really a management team for the state. They manage the fund, pay the claims, and the state supposedly pays the bill. Frequently on this floor, we enact legislation which encourages the increase in cost in health care cost. There is no doubt in