

Doctor of the day is Dr. Paul Meyer of Aurora, Senator Johnson's district, so in behalf of the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians, please welcome to the Chamber, Dr. Paul Meyer and his family under the north balcony. Dr. Meyer. Thank you for the service that you're rendering today. Also before recognizing Senator Lamb, a constituent of Senator Lamb's under the north balcony as well, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kaps from Broken Bow. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're pleased to have you with us. Senator Lamb, please, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, I agree with Senator Schmit on this issue. You know, we have the federal government mandating a lot of things in a lot of areas and then they come around to the state and say, you take the blame for it, you administer it, but do it like we say. And it's not just this bill, but a lot of other bills including the underground tank bill, and some people say, yeah, we should keep that flexibility on the state level but it doesn't work that way in actual practice. In actual practice we have to do exactly what the federal government does, or tells us to do, and, in fact, sometimes even the state gets more stringent than the federal people and it gets...borders the ridiculous sometimes. And to say that we have flexibility or we should be doing it ourselves because we will be able to do it more efficiently, more realistically, just has not worked out in actual practice. The underground tanks problem is I think an example of that where in some cases that program has been carried too far. I think it has been carried beyond what the federal government has mandated and that when we turn one of our state agencies loose on one of these problems, then their tendency is to build an empire and that's the way it works. So I'm willing to let the federal government administer it, take the blame for it and let her go.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Johnson, would you care to close on the adoption of the committee amendments?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, most of the discussion has centered around the bill itself and the intent of the bill. I would like to ask the body to focus back onto the committee amendments. There are some things forthcoming on the bill that I think everybody is going to be satisfied when this issue is finally completed or at least most will be. But as far as the committee amendments are concerned, if you would all relax for a moment and take a look at the bill and what these