

average \$80 annual premium less than Nebraska does, yet the discussion is made that our premiums would go up. If you look at this kind of statistical information, you will see that the actual insurance premiums may go down. What that basically tells you is there is two things that are happening, as you compare Nebraska and Iowa in that premium differential, where theirs is less than ours. There's only two things that can happen and that would be that there is a great deal of profitability differential, that \$80 is ending up in someone's pocket...

PRESIDENT: You have a minute left.

SENATOR CONWAY: ...or the inefficiency in the way the Nebraska companies are litigating these claims is costing the ratepayers \$80. There is no other justification for that differential. So, as people raise those issues in terms of what's going to happen with insurance premiums, you're going to find that by virtue of a more efficient system, by people settling out of court for lesser amounts, that you're going to find a situation where the premiums ultimately would, in fact, go down rather than raise, as being contended by many of the people who are fighting the bill. I was reading a letter not long ago and a person was against 159 and was complaining about the joint and several provision and, as I set out the scenario, what they were complaining about is the system that we currently have. The system in the bill, I think, is a step in the right direction and hope some day we will be able to adopt this for the betterment of all of your constituents throughout their paying premiums and who have need for protection from liability claims. With that, thank you, I give the time back to Senator Kristensen.

PRESIDENT: You have six minutes left, Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Conway, for yielding the time back to me. I am sure, for most of you, it's a relief at the present time because LB 159 probably will not visit you again this session. It probably is a dead issue for the rest of this year. I'm sure that it may be introduced again next year. However, you will see that I have printed several amendments in the Journal and those amendments were done for a variety of reasons, but one was to try to bring the parties together to try to fashion some bill that is politically plausible but yet practically would work.