

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I'm through.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Senator Moore, would you help me out on a few things. This somewhat goes from memory and I remember a couple of years ago or last year when we were talking about this bill. I think it was originally they could come up with figures of about 13.5 million and then got it back down to 12 million. Of that breakdown, last year the hospital's share was estimated annual cost, 35 percent of the program and the state's share 65 percent of the program. I think at that time then we got the cap on it at 7.2 million or whatever it is right now. What bothers me is the same thing that you said, is that once...I take it our famous retirement bill coming down line, there might be a little money there but it won't be there very long, and I take this as the same thing, the additional cost. Is there anything, to your knowledge and what I remembered at all, to guarantee that this will not be a 12 or 13,000, million dollar bill very shortly.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, I mean, the only guarantee is the fact that it's capped in the bill of 8., next year, the cap is actually less than that. I mean and as long as they had a cap there that is a guarantee that the cost won't be any more than that, but what my argument is, is that the problem, and I think Senator Lynch will certainly agree with me, the problem is a lot larger than that in terms of dollars. And once you start recognizing the problem, you say you're going to pay for it, then what's to prevent you next year coming into the cap and saying, well, you're only throwing \$8 million at a \$40 million problem, you should throw more than that.

SENATOR NELSON: All right. I also remember from last year when we passed the trailer bill we had 2.2, 2.3 million for the doctor's portion of that bill and the 2.7 or 2.8 million was vetoed, passed by the body and vetoed by the Governor, and also that was our way of trying to get some help at that time for the hospitals. I'm not clear, I don't suppose they got any help. For the body, I remember last year it was \$97,000, maybe, for St. Francis Hospital in Grand Island for indigent care. I've not had any contacts excepting, of course, from my hospital and