

won't raise any taxes. Well, Senator Smith, if we're going to pass this and other bills, we're going to have to raise taxes or get the money someplace. So my question to you and the rest, where is the money going to come from? I will probably not support the bill because...it is a great idea, I can't argue that, but for now, I think I'm going to sit back and see what the rest of you do. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to ask Senator Smith a question. I have three relatives in nursing homes a total of 16 years and a question that I...I don't know if you'd call it the old nursing home game or what, I know several people that are in rest homes where their families can easily afford to take care of these incidental costs. My question is, is there an oversight by the local nursing homes as far as the individuals that can afford to help their relatives and I'd certainly be the first person to support people that do not have the means to take care of those incidentals. Do you understand my question? Is there an oversight on nursing homes on who can and what families can and cannot afford these incidentals?

SENATOR SMITH: I would be pleased to respond to that to the extent that I'm able to. I guess I'm not in the business of telling the nursing homes, you know, what their business is. I don't think that's their responsibility nor maybe they even have the right to make a distinction between those who can and those who can't. They're all allowed...what it comes down to is that if you have to turn your finances over to the nursing home and you're not able to pay the full cost then you are in a position of only having \$30 of your Social Security check retained for personal needs. Those that have the means go ahead and have whatever money they have as long as they are paying for the full cost of the nursing home, you know, being a part of that...being in the nursing home.

SENATOR ROBINSON: But I'm talking about the families...you have a relative that has, in other words, something has happened to all of their assets and then their family members can easily help them with their incidentals, but those people would also receive the \$45. Am I correct on this?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes. Anyone...if their assets have been spent