

just...I'm still not real comfortable with the legislation. But the biggest part of it that I have a problem with is turning over the aspect of insurance to folks who are basically for hire, the actuaries, and not having the regulation and oversight that I think the Department of Insurance brings to this area. I'm going to continue to look at that aspect of the program, and I hope the rest of you will, too. I'm not going to vote to advance the bill, but I do think it's in good form.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Schmit. Do you wish to debate this, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I just want to say one word of caution, because when the trouble develops, and it will, there will be those on this floor who will say, well we never intended this to happen, it was expected that we built in safeguards. The facts are that this operation is outside the Department of Insurance. I do not believe there is any state oversight. I do not believe there is any assurance that these programs that are going to be planned are going to be fiscally sound. I'm concerned about it. I do not know exactly how to repair it, Senator Landis, I know you worked at it very hard. But I think that rather than to come to the Legislature for a quick fix, like a cocaine addict, we ought to take a doggone good look at it, because there may just have been some good reason why the statute prohibited doing what has been done. And I really think that we have had an experience out in western Nebraska where a county decided to go it on their own, they're going to save some money, and they proceeded to do so. When it was all said and done it turned out that they didn't save any money, it cost them a lot of money, and they came crawling back to the other organization, covered again under the former organization. But I'm concerned about what happens here. I do not think, at least last I heard, there was any size limitation, any lower limits of anything. Insurance is spreading the risk, and we are not spreading the risk in this situation, in my estimation. We start out with one small goal, we're going to allow you to have a certain deductible, and then we'll insure. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I've seen too many instances in small groups in business, and I was a small group...a part of a small group, it does not take very much of a problem to blow your group plan all haywire. And then all of a sudden you have several choices, you either get rid of an employee, or someone has to start calculating the kind of increases that you need to cover those costs. I know that there are many, many people here