

going together to ease the burden of the physical effect that it may...perception it may have with regard to the public. We're also looking at issues of you cannot turn on the radio in terms of the advertisement that goes on for hospitals. It is not a nonprofit operation in terms of a free commercial. These are for-profit operations that are running for-profit advertising to cut into the business of their competitors. They are operating like corporations that pay their board as opposed to corporations that don't pay their board. And that's probably the single distinction between these, except for the fact that they also enjoy a tax exempt status and that tax exempt status costs the taxpayers of the county that I reside in millions of dollars each year in additional costs. This issue is one that must be addressed by this body and I believe that the moratorium in terms of building for hospitals is one that brings us to a bit of a discussion, if you will, on this issue that we're going to be facing over the interim and well into the next budget cycle. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give some of my time to Senator Schmit, who cosponsored this amendment with me, and it is my intention to withdraw it, although I have no problem discussing it either because I think the merits for the proposal are clearly on the side of the introducers.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I really have no intention of withdrawing this amendment. I believe the amendment, as has been described many times on this floor by various ones of us as we proceed with the bill which is near and dear to us, one of the most important amendments and perhaps the most important piece of legislation relative to control of cost that we can discuss this year. I introduced a bill that did this, among a number of other things, before the committee and I, of course, created great concern among the hospitals and I have generated a great amount of business for the telephone industry and the United States Post Office by virtue of introduction of those bills. The facts are it's very, very difficult and I hope that you will bear with me, it is very, very difficult to criticize the hospital. No one wants to criticize the hospital because you never know when you're going to be flat on your back and be wheeled into the operating room and you hope you have a friendly face above you in the person of the physician and friendly people around you in the hospital. This is not to be taken personally. I have enjoyed the services of a number of hospitals. The staff are excellent. The