

physicians are super but the facts are that health care costs have gotten totally out of control. There is absolutely no excuse for the continued hospital construction and expansion that is taking place today. One of my concerns is, of course, that my good friends in the cities have cranked up the small hospitals around the State of Nebraska and they are all calling you and telling you, back off, you're going to destroy our little hospital. Ladies and gentlemen, what good is the best health care in the world if you can't afford it? What good is it if we have an increased percentage of our people with no health care insurance and no person, no one person can earn enough money today to pay for extended hospital care, not even for an overnight. I do not want to burden you nor to excite you, I suppose, with some of the actual costs of hospital stays, but they are absolutely incomprehensible. And the reason they are is because of excessive construction in the area of most hospital buildings and excessive duplication of facilities and the cost is no object, cost is no object. Friends of mine who do business with a hospital will say, it's easy to sell equipment to a hospital, they never ask what the cost is. And I don't believe that's exactly right but the facts are, ladies and gentlemen, that the health care which we have here for us as senators, which we can avail ourselves of because we are state employees, even though we pay for it ourself, is a bargain. If we were to buy it privately, it would cost considerably more. I started teaching school forty some years ago for \$350 a month. My health care cost at that time, when I was just starting a family, the best program, Blue Cross and Blue Shield had was \$125 a year. Today, three, four, five hundred dollars with substantial exemptions and substantial other exemptions to reduce the cost still do not make it affordable. Professional people can't afford it, plus the fact that one of the...one of the most serious concerns of businessmen and women today is how do you fund health care and how do you provide for the health care of your employees? There has got to be a moratorium. We've got to have time out. We've got to say, whoa, we have got to stop and take a look before we do anything more. Now in the bill that I had, I forget the number, I think it was LB 1285, I proposed many other opportunities that will hold down the cost of health care. But this is the first, most important step.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I also wanted, of course, to have some additional studies done by the Health Committee. I think it is