

April 9, 1992

LB 1019

Mr. President, to 1019.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Senator Will, would you like to move the advancement.

**SENATOR WILL:** Mr. Speaker, I move the advancement of LB 1019 to E & R for grossment.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** You have heard the motion to...oh, discussion, Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I just want to make a comment about the amendment that Senator Hall had offered to put a moratorium on the construction of hospitals and this kind of thing in Omaha and Lincoln. I liken this situation to that of gambling. There has been a proliferation of all types of gambling, but there is a limited pool of money that is going to be available for gambling purposes. So the gambling operations begin to offer different incentives to call people to their forum rather than to others. These facilities have been overbuilt already. There has been not a demonstrated need, but to allow continuing building is an escalation for the purpose of advertising. It is like saying we are going to give you something that the others don't. Why they have a pewter CAT scan, we have a stainless steel CAT scan. So the other one says, we have a sterling silver CAT scan, and the other says, we have a gold-plated CAT scan. The other one says, well, yours is 14 karat gold-plated, ours is 24 karat gold-plated, put the fundamental purpose for the CAT scan is lost because the public is looking at all of these frills that are being attached by way of public relations. If the Legislature, in an area that is of concern throughout the country and the world, really, is going to back off in dealing with the most serious aspect of it, an aspect of it that we can deal with without in any way impairing the ability of any health care provider to deliver the services that are essential, that it purports to be in the business for delivering, while at the same time...we sure will, (laughter), I understand. You know they say after you have been so long you hear voices other than those that are audible to everybody else, but at any rate, we would not do any damage to anybody by the adoption of Senator Hall's amendment. By failing to adopt it, it would be better, really, had no vote at all been taken. The failure to adopt that amendment is going to be construed as approval by the Legislature of what these hospitals are doing. They will go