

malpractice insurance, we continue to see hospital construction running unabated, notwithstanding the fact that we have more unused beds in Omaha and Lincoln now than we can possibly utilize. Notwithstanding we have duplication of facilities, we continue to escalate the cost of health care to the point where people cannot afford it. A young man from my area went to Omaha for outpatient surgery, was there for a few hours, cost \$8,000, \$8,000. Was not major surgery. Ladies and gentlemen, it is obscene. The time will come when the public will rebel. The time will come when there will be a march upon this Legislature to do something, and then we will wring our hands and, as I just was visiting with Senator Hall, this Legislature will one day spend more time on the cost of health care and how we are going to fund some of our responsibility for it than we spent this year on the personal property tax problem. The problems you do not address today must be addressed tomorrow. It was said that LB 1257, the garbage bill, is an important bill and it is. It is a very important bill. Are we going to spend more time on how do you get rid of garbage than how do you provide affordable health care? How many of you here today have a constituency that can afford \$400 a month out-of-pocket health care costs? So many times people come to me and say, well, the boss pays for it. It comes out of the company, or the state pays for it, or the feds pay for it. Ladies and gentlemen, we know that the worker would get more money if it were not for the excessive cost of health care. The boss doesn't pay for it. What I pay for health insurance for an employee, I don't pay for it. I would pay the employee more if the health care costs were not so excessive. The same is true with every single business. I think someone said that cost of motor industry, car industry, \$700 per automobile for health care insurance. We, in Nebraska, took some steps a long time ago to hold down the cost of health care. One of my good friends, Dr. Reese, gave me a book called The Hospital That Ate Chicago. You all ought to read it. It is an excellent book upon what can happen with unabated control, with unabated health care costs and unabated growth. And, ladies and gentlemen, we ought to recognize it. I don't dislike the Hospital Association. I think they are fine people. I don't like to go out and make people angry with me. I don't like to have the phone ringing down in my office now accusing me of wanting to close our little hospital because I know it is not true, and I know they know it is not true. The fact...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.