

placed in the way of the nursing home insofar as providing good health care, good care for the elderly at a reasonable cost. Couldn't help but sort of reminisce a bit when I saw a headline in the paper several days ago that a physician here in this city has been awarded \$4.4 million in a lawsuit against another physicians group because the court found the group guilty of antitrust violations. I would suggest that I know many of those physicians that are involved, and I can tell you that I'm appalled that such a verdict would come down. We all know that if that verdict is upheld that there is no other way for it to be paid than to put it on the next persons' bill. We have seen the cost of those very difficult surgeries rise and escalate to the point where, in fact, the poor and many other individuals above a certain age, and I would suppose that's about my age, may not be able to justify that kind of surgery. But when we find that kind of an award made, I think it almost goes without saying that it will encourage additional kinds of expenses. I noted also that in some of the reports that I have seen that we need to take a look at the cost of workmen's comp care, that many times that care is more expensive than the care given under other conditions. I would hope that we would review the medical malpractice legislation which was initially passed in the late seventies, which many of you who are here today cosigned with me, and which we have reviewed more recently. But I think it's important that we review that to see if there is something that needs to be done with that. I hope that the entire issue, whether it is physician services, medical services, hospital services, drugs, the various devices that need to be utilized in the care of individuals who are injured needs to be reviewed. There isn't any reason why...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...some of these devices are as expensive as they turn out to be, in my opinion. I may be wrong, but I think we ought to be willing to review those expenditures and determine if they are so expensive because a third party pays for them, or because of the real engineering expense behind it. So, with that, again I commend the committee. I hope that they will continue to look at alternatives. And I just suggest that the cost of health care will be a major concern of us for many years to come, and we ought to address it, and address it immediately, as Senator Wesely has said.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Wesely.