

doesn't have a definite date as to when payment must be made, but here in the case of the hospitals, and by the way, of the close to 100 hospitals in Nebraska, there are only 4 that I am aware of that are for-profit hospitals; St. Joe Hospital and Mental Health Hospital in Omaha, also Midlands Community Hospital in Papillion, and then also, I believe, Riverdale (sic) in Seward. Those are the only 4 out of close to 100 hospitals that are for profit. But as many of you know, the profit that hospitals have been making, either for profit or nonprofit, or not necessarily profit, but have been reduced drastically. The per day, the day care has dropped substantially, as so much is being done with out-patients. So hospitals are really struggling. I did pass out to you two testimonies that were given to the committee, one from the hospital out in McCook, which stated that in the last five years, they had actually lost a million dollars, and they had finally turned that around in 1993 with some cost-cutting measures, and so now they are in the black. And also then there is a testimony of a hospital here in Lincoln, Lincoln General. The hospitals that are really of emphasis on this are the trauma hospitals. I happen to have a son that, in 1987, was severely injured in an accident, and he was life-flighted to St. Joe, and was in a coma for some three weeks, but during that process, by the way, he had no insurance at the time, he was 22 years old, and the hospital, when he was brought in, they did not ask, does he have insurance? As a matter of fact, when he was brought in, they didn't even know who he was, he was a John Doe on arrival. They immediately began the procedures, their life-saving procedures. His particular hospital stay, while he was there, was over \$250,000. It did so happen that because he was still a student at 22 years old, he came underneath my group policy, and at that time was not even a good student, but, nevertheless, he came underneath my group policy, and the hospital was paid. But had they not been paid, they would have...

SENATOR HALL: Senator Jensen. (Gavel.) If we could hold it down a little bit, please. Thank you very much. Go ahead.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you. Had his bill not been paid, they would have filed a lien and then as he would have been able to someday work out of that through repayment. And hospitals have been very lenient in the past on doing that. Sometimes a year, sometimes two or three years, there is testimony that came before the committee where it was five, six years before they finally received their payment. And what LB 172 is, corrects a