

January 9, 1989

LB 58, 84, 98, 102, 140, 141, 241-266

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read titles for the first time to LBs 241-266. See pages 112-18 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, in addition to those items, the Rules Committee would like to announce that Senator Carson Rogers has been selected as Vice-Chair of the committee.

Mr. President, Revenue Committee will be or are...is conducting a meeting underneath the south balcony.

Mr. President, the Judiciary Committee will conduct an Executive Session upon recess on the south side of the Chamber; Judiciary upon recess. And Transportation will meet in the lounge upon recess...or, Senator...I'm sorry, Senator Lamb, do you want that this afternoon, Senator? I'm sorry, Transportation upon adjournment this afternoon in the Senators' Lounge; Transportation this afternoon.

Mr. President, Government Committee has selected Senator Bernard-Stevens as Vice-Chair.

Mr. President, Senator Conway would like to add his name to LB 140 as co-introducer; Senator Beck to LB 102 and to LB 141; Senators Smith and Hartnett to LB 58; Senator Hartnett to LB 98; Senator Rod Johnson to LB 84.

Mr. President, the last note is a Reference Committee meeting at two-thirty this afternoon in Room 2102; Reference Committee at two-thirty in Room 2102. That's all that I have.

PRESIDENT: Senator Emil Beyer, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BEYER: Mr. Speaker, a point of personal privilege. I hope that the senators have noticed that we have a familiar face back in the Legislature and that's our Page Supervisor, Kitty Kearns. We're glad to have her back and we've missed her and we wish her good health from now on. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please listen as your Speaker speaks.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, just a reminder to committee chairs, committee clerks, if you plan to have a hearing next week, I believe the first day would be the

honest responsibility of the state in general. I want to make sure you understand a couple of things. First of all, we can't identify too many people that are being left unserved except in some cases some street people. Some people may be underserved but most people are, in fact, being served. That means that the hospitals and the docs and other health providers are, in fact,...I will wait until they get through talking here. That is all right.

SPEAKER BARRETT: I am sorry, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Oh, I was just going to wait until they...I couldn't hear, they were talking so loud. No, that is okay. I will wait until you get finished here. But in any case, in any case, people are being served. Our hospitals, physicians and other health providers are, in fact, providing service. The problem is in some cases they are not being reimbursed. With this legislation, even with this legislation and the cost, which is about \$12 million at the most, it is a cap, hopefully not that much money, there will still be people being served for which these health professionals will not be paid. So, first of all, I want you to understand that this bill is not a bill to pick up all of the unpaid costs by health professionals or, in fact, is it intended to be an open gate through which more money can flow and a pool of money can be provided to meet on a cost-plus basis all of the unmet health care needs of this state. Certainly, that is not the case. At the present time, you have Medicare. This does not complicate, overlap, duplicate, supersede, or anything any of those programs. We have Medicaid, the same thing is true. Those people will continue to be served and this program does not violate or overlap with that program at all. We have in place some reasonable, maybe we need some more, but some reasonable children's programs. So we take care of the old, take of the disabled, we take care of the sick, we take care of the kids, what we don't apparently have the chance to do and the resources is to provide some reasonable reimbursement for those people generally between 20 and 60, the working stiff out of a job who maybe has a house that might be worth 10 grand but is making less, if he has got two kids, less than \$500 a month, and it would provide for that medically indigent person some reasonable health care reimbursement so that that medical problem can not only be served on an emergency basis, but served in such a way that there is not extraordinary cost, public cost following that by any jurisdiction of government in the state. The bill, as