

April 25, 1975

SENATOR MURPHY: Well I think the principle cause, Senator, is that the lawsuits have become unbearably high. Accordingly the premiums are getting in the same category to the point, and here again I'm reciting other information. I would prefer to have testimony at a hearing. It is my understanding that many doctors at 50 and 55 are starting to retire rather than continue, either by having to produce enough income to pay those exorbitantly high premiums or else they're going back into . . . some going back to medical and military service, this sort of thing. It is something that is national in scope. I think we fairly owe the medical profession, hospital, doctor, nurse, the whole bit consideration. It's unfortunate that it has to come at this time.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Now I'll just ask my final question. I don't want to delay it. I have an interest in this are that that insurance is not available now on a private basis for whatever the premium that they would charge?

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator, I would say that probably is not entirely correct. As I say there are those withdrawing because of the prohibitive cost of it. It is my understanding that St. Paul is the only one writing it in the state on doctors. Now I'm not going to belabor that point because I'm not that factual. Hopefully this hearing will produce that in a little better detail.

PRESIDENT: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, question of Senator Mahoney please. Question of Senator Mahoney please. Senator Mahoney, would it be possible to assign this bill to two committees for a hearing, the Public Health and Welfare and the Insurance, Banking and Commerce?

SENATOR MAHONEY: I think the first thing we got to do is get it introduced. After we get past that, Senator Maresh, then we'll have to make a decision what committee it goes to. It is a suggestion.

SENATOR MARESH: I just wondered if it would be possible to have both committees in on this hearing?

SENATOR MAHONEY: The committee chairmen with study it. It's something we can think about.

SENATOR MARESH: OK, thank you.

SENATOR MAHONEY: At least we got to either get it introduced or do something with it now, because you know the afternoon is wearing on. I would hope now that we could vote on it very shortly.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? The question is shall the bill be introduced? Record your vote. Please vote. Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays.