

May 6, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when the big misconception gets started, it's like a snowball going down hill. It just gets bigger and bigger and bigger. As LB 571 as promoted is a rural medical bill to put doctors into rural areas and the program is to have ten more residencies in Omaha and five new residencies in Lincoln where there has never been residencies before. These will be general practitioner type residencies which will include internal medicine. I submit to you these figures and please listen to them if you will. In the current residency program at the University of Nebraska Medical College there are 45 family type practice residencies and 190 other residencies. The program is to expand the other type residencies 110 more for a total of 300 and family practice would be included 15 for a total of 60. If this is the thrust that the University of Nebraska Medical College can give for outstate Nebraska in promoting doctors to the rural area, I do not understand what a thrust and a promotion is. A 110 new residencies are in the works for other than family practice. Fifteen for family practice and these 15 come in by the side door under LB 571 that the Health and Welfare Committee handled way late in the session, not through the appropriation measure, not through the fact that they had this planned two years ago, it was something that evidentially came up when probably some Federal funds were missing someplace that they didn't realize were gone. I submit further that if we do not pass 571 and indeed that we do, take 585 thousand dollars out of the University of Nebraska Medical College budget, those 15 family practice residencies will go in place anyway. To me, this is just 585 thousand dollar welfare for the Nebraska Medical College. It has no connection with outstate rural doctors whatsoever. To prove the point, you people in the rural areas immediately get together with the medical college and say that you want to form whatever requirements they need so that you can have family practice residencies in your communities, your area or your city and you will be turned down flat because you will not qualify. Only the University of Nebraska Medical College in Omaha will qualify and only the University of Nebraska Medical College at Lincoln will qualify and nobody else will and nobody else will get a look at these residencies, they'll stay in Omaha and Lincoln and that's the program.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I would like to simply say this that from the information that we have received shows that for house officers that were authorized last year at the Omaha Medical Center, they still have a 300 thousand dollar surplus. They haven't even gotten up to their quota of last year. Now, I think that the bill attacks the problem that you have got to develop house officers or residents or whatever the term may be and you've got to develop slots for these people or you're never going to get anyplace.