

indicated. Nebraska chiropractors are examined by the State Board of Examiners in all the subjects covered by this bill. Yet because of the ancient language in the 1915 law it is frankly unclear and uncertain just what procedures are technically permitted for chiropractors in Nebraska. This is the real reason for the public need for this legislation. Chiropractors are taught these things and they do these things but our present law is silent as to these modern procedures and it is in the best interest of the general public that it be made clear so that there is no confusion. Now last year as you returning Senators recall, we introduced a similar bill and due to the pressures of time were not able to fully process it. I want to point out that the big difference in last year's bill which was LB 924 and this year's bill is that we have taken out all the college language that was objected to by the medical doctors. The language would have permitted chiropractors to treat in any way taught in chiropractic colleges. We agreed with the medical doctors and changed the bill to eliminate that objection. This year's bill, LB 142, means exactly what it says. There are no hidden expansion joints in this bill as we have deleted the college language. In addition I want to say a word about health insurance and the matter of health insurance premiums because I know this has been discussed extensively particularly by the Nebraska Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Let's get a true perspective on this discussion. The official figures of the Nebraska Department of Welfare for the last fiscal year show that for pure office visits medical doctors received over \$8 million, almost \$9 million. Nebraska chiropractors received just under \$88,000. Chiropractors do not perform surgery. They do not prescribe drugs and do not treat patients in the hospital. As we all know the rising cost of medical insurance is related to rising cost of skilled but expensive operations and hospital care. Also, isn't it interesting that it is shown in the Nebraska Department of Insurance official records there are hundreds of insurance companies who sell health and medical insurance but only one which really bothered to testify in committee against LB 142 was Blue Cross-Blue Shield, and we know that their Board of Directors has a heavy number of medical doctors and a long pattern in history of resistance to any health profession competing with medical doctors. What is the difference between Blue Cross and Blue Shield and, for example, Mutual of Omaha. United of Omaha, a mutual company, took in \$35 million in group health insurance in Nebraska in 1981 and paid out only \$27 million in benefits. I ask you, must we shiver and shake simply because Nebraska Blue Shield and Blue Cross testified in opposition to LB 142? I think not. The fault in logic is an old one. Nonmedical health professions are not always an additional expense. Most often they are an alternate