

we all know about the famous battles over establishment of medical malpractice insurance, the limitations thereon, the Excess Liability Fund. As we have progressed and inflation has occurred and new developments and this and that, we find a need apparently to make some major changes in the Excess Liability Fund, in the limit amounts, and that is what the bill does. And the reason I mention that is what the bill does without giving you exact limits is because I have made it very clear and the various parties have agreed that unless they reach total agreement, that means agreement from the Insurance Department, that means agreement from the medical profession, the doctors, so to speak, from the hospitals, another aspect of it, the insurance industry itself, unless there is total agreement, there is no use pursuing the bill and I will not push it. It is my understanding and we have pretty firm evidence of this now that agreement has been reached or the formalization of that agreement will be reached within the next short while. And so my intent today is to advance the bill to Select File, letting everybody in here know, and letting everybody on the outside know, very simply, that on Select File presuming that agreement is reached, and I believe it will be, that amendment will be offered. If it is not reached, I will not even take the bill up again. So I would ask you today to advance the bill to Select File with the complete understanding that only when total agreement is reached will the amendment be offered, will the bill be pushed forward, and I would further sound a signal of warning once more to the industry, by that I mean the medical profession, the hospitals, the doctors, the Insurance Department, every aspect of it, have your agreement formalized, and I would like to see some substantive evidence that it is all agreed upon, and I would ask with that the bill be advanced.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator DeCamp, I didn't catch the start of your comments. Who is it exactly that has...where is the point of contention, who are the parties involved? Can you talk about that a second.

SENATOR DECAMP: The parties involved would be, of course, the medical profession, Nebraska Medical Association would be maybe the key spokesman there; hospitals, Nebraska Hospital Association; Medical Liability Insurance Company, one of the key carriers of insurance, Hospital Mutual