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SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Mr. President, fellow members, if Senator Schmit is here, he probably can give you more details on the amendments, on the particular bill.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the legislature, the amendments to the bill are drafted by the Nebraska Medical Association and also the Hospital Board, and I could go through them individually, but basically I would prefer just to explain them, then if the members have any questions on a specific amendment I will go into it in detail, but the amendments provide basically that the physician who hires the physician assistant will be responsible for each and every act of that person and the bill when we originally drafted it was copied after the Florida Statute which provides for certification of the Physician's Assistant in that state and the amendments which we have here that our committee amendments are those amendments which are necessary to make the Florida language correspond to Nebraska language, Nebraska law, plus the respon-, the necessity of placing the responsibility for the physicians assistant directly with the physician and this way in this manner the question of malpractice insurance is not going to be a major one and the bill does have the support of the Medical Association and University of Nebraska School of Medicine has the support of the Hospital Association, so there were no opponents at the hearing and there is no opposition to my knowledge to the bill at this time. I move the bill be advanced, pardon me, I move the amendments be adopted.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion, the committee amendments. The Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I'd like to ask Senator Schmit a question.

SPEAKER: Senator Schmit will you yield?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes I will.

SENATOR CLARK: Now you say it's not going to make any difference on their malpractice insurance, but I have doctors tell me that they have asked the insurance companies how much their malpractice is going to go up, if they hire one of these people, they say it isn't a matter how much it's going up if you hire one let us know so we will cancel all of us. Now if he's directly responsible for each and every act of these, I don't see how the malpractice is not going to be effected. Perhaps you have some other solution.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Clark, this is the same argument I think that we heard from the past bill a year ago, Dr. McGee who works with the committee on drafting of this certification bill, and Dr. Cogill who also worked with us, Dr. Mason in McCook who worked with us have told me that they have checked with their malpractice carriers and it will raise their cost of their malpractice insurance \$40.00 per year, \$40.00 per year that's all it will raise their malpractice insurance, a very negligible amount. This is a statement from the Doctors themselves.

SENATOR CLARK: Now this will be hard for me to believe being that it's going up 30 or 40 percent now without it. To me if they get this in right I don't see how they can determine that it's going to be a \$40.00 raise in malpractice.

SENATOR SCHMIT: The Doctors have asked the carriers, they have been informed it would raise their insurance rated \$40.00 I have no reason to believe, Senator Clark, that the doctors would