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be anything less than truthful with me. I'm sure that this is an accurate estimate of the increase in cost. The reason for the modest increase in the malpractice insurance I'm sure is very simple, no man, no physician will hire a man and place him under his control and give him any responsibility unless he has complete confidence in that individual's ability to perform those duties which are assigned to him, and the very fact that the physician assumes all the responsibility is what will keep the rates low. I know what you speak of Senator Clark in that malpractice rates have gone up considerably but the malpractice rates will not go up, the doctors' tell me as a result of hiring a physician's assistant, they have checked it out and they have, there was considerable apprehension at one time, but about forty states at this time do have physician's assistants programs of one type or another, and have provided for certification of physician's assistants. There was some bad experience, I believe in one state which tried to license physicians's assistants, so that they could perhaps work outside the jurisdiction of the physician, but that has been reversed at this time all of the emphasis is placed upon certification as to their qualities, training, as to their experience, and then the balance of the responsibility is left with the doctor.

SENATOR CLARK: Well I suppose I'm highly critical because I was one of the three that voted against the bill originally, I'm still against the bill to be honest with you, because I think doctors have always had physician's assistants, in the nurses, so I've been against the bill for that reason particularly, but more specifically because my doctors have told me what they have contacted on these. I have doctors out there that think it's going to be a fine thing, so I'm in a quandary on it too. Thank you.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Goodrich, then Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President and members of the body, for the benefit -

SPEAKER: Please back up from your microphone Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: For the benefit of Senator Clark, I just wanted him to know that we did have this same concern in our minds when we were hearing the bill at public hearing. We did ask the question and I'd like to confirm that the answer Senator Schmit gave is exactly what they told us at the public hearing. It would not be more than \$40.00 possibly \$45.00 increase in the premium as the result of the physician's assistant program.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: And also to back that up, I'm sure there were letters from the insurance association and that Senator Clark can certainly get an answer from Dr. McGee relating to the exact insurance companies by name, because they have definitely went into it and we were showed copies, I particularly reading two insurance company quotes and so I'm sure that it's been tried in other states so I'm hoping that you understand that we had some information that you do not have, but if you care to check Dr. McGee has it. Thank you.

SPEAKER: We are still debating the committee amendments to LB 101 and the Chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, may I ask Senator Kennedy why the Nebraska Hospital Association has asked for an amendment requiring approval of the assistants by the Hospital Board? Who else has to make the approval besides the Nebraska Board?

SPEAKER: Senator Kennedy do you care to respond or do you want Senator Schmit to answer it?