

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Senator Warner, did I understand correctly, there was a lot of confusion here and I did not fully understand, did you say that this, it is required that this position be filled by one who is a qualified M.D.?

SENATOR WARNER: My, I have talked with members of the Board of Health. They have informed me that Nebraska Statutes required that and that also, some of the Federal funds which are administered by the Department of Health, requires an M.D. to be at the head of the department and they indicated to me that if you will recall there were three or four directors of health there in a short period of time and in one of those periods they appointed it on an interim basis, a person who was working in the Department that was not an M.D. and the Federal Government had informed them that that person could not continue in the, even as the Acting Director because he did not have an M.D. Now this, this is what members of the Board of Health have told me and I have no reason not to believe it.

SENATOR CARSTENS: In other words, I received a letter from a fellow not long ago by the name of Glebe who said he was a horse doctor. He wouldn't be qualified.

SENATOR WARNER: I, I think not, particularly that one.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Is it necessary, does this position, this is an administrative job, isn't it?

SENATOR WARNER: It is solely, as I understand it, an administrative position. The Director is hired and fired and selected by the Board of Health. They have the responsibility for it. They would be, as far as salary goes, they would be limited as far as what would be contained in the Appropriations bill.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Well, we have, don't we have many hospital administrators, large hospital administrators, for example, Bishop Clarkson in Omaha, doesn't have a doctor as its head administrator?

SENATOR WARNER: I would not make the case, Senator Carstens, that you have to be an M.D. to be an administrator. It's only as I understand it, present State law as well as Federal requirements for the Director of Health of any state, must be an M.D.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Well, I, I have no objection as a personal philosophy to salaries, but I am becoming aware and increasingly aware of the bitterness that exists among the rank and file of our people in connection with the, what to them are huge salaries paid for, also what to them is to do nothing more but bring a more and more crushing burden of additional taxation on their necks and I'm a little concerned about this. Now, we open the door to this, we're going to have the head of the Highway Department, the head of the Motor Vehicle Department, the Insurance Department. We're going to have every, every administrative office in the State and the State Government and this is going to go on right down to the line. It's going to affect the whole, the whole gamut of these offices and salaries and it looks to me like we're, we're creating a situation here that we just can't stop. Where are we going to limit this. I don't know what, I really don't know. Merit is one thing but the practical reality is another thing.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Carstens, it's actually the other way. In reverse right now. When I first came here virtually all co-department heads and a number of other heads had their salaries set by statute and as I recall, it was in 1969, perhaps 67 in which we repealed a whole series of statutes which set the salaries for some of these department heads and in turn set the ceiling within the budget bill generally what the, in the co-department cases, generally what the Governor would recommend for a salary