

LB 453

March 27, 1973

good reason for that?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Wait a minute. Drive your question by--you, you're saying why should the hospital be concerned with the approval?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Why should the county board have to make arrangements through the hospital with the approval. I, I don't believe I agree with your amendment.

SENATOR GOODRICH: This does not say with the approval of the hospital. This only says, the local governing body can if they wish, contract with the hospital to provide this service. This is just another avenue that they can go through if they wish.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, couldn't they do that already? Why does it need to be in the bill?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Well, first of all, they don't even have the authority to do this in anything except the metropolitan class cities.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But the bill gives them the authority in those rural counties and I don't think we need to tie it down to say specifically that they may contract through the hospital.

SENATOR GOODRICH: What if there is no other source for getting the nurse?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well then, I'd suggest they probably solve that problem when they came to it but I don't believe you need to tie it down to the hospital, Senator Goodrich, I believe that--every county is going to have at least one nurse in the area and if they need to, they can bring one in but I don't believe we should tie it down to where the hospital gets involved with it.

SENATOR GOODRICH: What harm could it do, having one more avenue open to the local governing body?

SENATOR SCHMIT: They have the avenue now. They can work with the hospital if they wish.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Well, that isn't my interpretation of it and that isn't the hospital association's interpretation of it.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I didn't think it was the hospital association's interpretation and that's what I object to. I don't believe that we need to tie them into the hospital association. I think, let's be concerned about how we can get the visiting nurse at the least possible cost and I don't think we need to tie in the hospitals with it.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay, Senator Schmit, just rest assured that, you know, the metropolitan class cities are not involved, not affected by this and consequently, this is your decision to make. If you want to zing the hospitals off of this list, I mean, I don't care. Go ahead.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Goodrich. I appreciate your concern for the rural areas and I assure you it's well taken.

PRESIDENT: Chair next recognizes Senator Mahoney, but would you yield the floor just a moment, Senator Mahoney, just--the Chair would like to announce the presence today in the South