

Balcony of 42 Eighth Grade students from West Point High--Public School, West Point, Nebraska. They, of course, are from Senator Hasebroock's district and their instructor is Mr. Hirschman. We're delighted to have them here today as visitors to the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. I see Senator Hasebroock up there with you so, you're going to get the information first hand from him as to just what's going on. Now, Senator Mahoney, back to you.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, maybe this is one of the questions that would be part of what Senator Stahmer started to ask and I'm sure that he had his answer when he wanted the Omaha, Douglas County included in this. Senator Goodrich, would you yield to this question, please?

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich, you yield to another question?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Goodrich, would this, when we talk about metropolitan cities and that we have this already in our particular area of our hospitals. Is the Omaha, Douglas County Health budget paying for the visiting nurses to the various hospitals within the City of Omaha, is this what's happening now?

SENATOR GOODRICH: It's done by the County Government, not by the Omaha-Douglas County Hospital.

SENATOR MAHONEY: But they in turn are administrating it through the visiting nurses association which is part of that--

SENATOR GOODRICH: Right.

SENATOR MAHONEY: --arm of government.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Right.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Would you have any idea what the hospital associations, tell us what that cost our city. I, it's just for information I'd like to have.

SENATOR GOODRICH: No. Actually, I don't have the information. I've got a county budget, or, excuse me, a hospital, Douglas County hospital budget but I don't happen to have it with me. If I had it with me I could just look it up and tell you but I just don't happen to have that budget with me right now.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Then lastly, I'll just ask you. What is the role the visiting nurses do play then, between the hospitals and what are they doing in this particular amendment that you'll be wanting to do in the rural areas? In other words, you'll be explaining to me what's happening now in the city and what's taking place in the rural areas, when we have visiting nurses being paid for doing certain hospital duties.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yeah. What it boils down to is the visiting nurses' association is a group of trained nurses that are hired by the County Government in Douglas County to perform the chore of going out to the homes of invalid, elderly and invalid in any category that needs attention but they can't, they're not mobile. They can't come to the nurse themselves so the nurse goes to them. It's a very high level, excellent service to take care of the elderly and the invalid people in your community and we've been doing it for years. Now, the question for this body is, do you want that service performed or to avail your own communities of that service? If you do, fine, pass the bill. If you don't, let's vote no. Now, the other thing that I'm suggesting was, and frankly, this came from the hospital association. I'm not trying to palm off anything on anybody. I'm just suggest--telling you that they came to me and they asked me, wouldn't it be at least one more avenue of service open to the community if they, the local governing body could contract with the local hospital because of the fact that occasionally that's the only