

April 12, 1979

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He also has a practice limited to infants, children and adolescents, is extremely well known in this state. He says, and I quote: "I should like to make available to you some sample cost figures for newborn screening procedures as collected from some outstate hospitals. I believe the somewhat high costs reflect what I think is an unnecessary involvement of the pathology laboratory in carrying out these procedures, and I would urge any one of you to walk over and see what these charges are. Laboratory collects specimen, hospital charges \$6.00. Laboratory collects specimen, hospital charges \$4.00. Laboratory collects specimen, hospital charges \$5.00. Another one, \$2.50. Another one \$6.50." These are not costs to the State of Nebraska. These are costs to the patients. In my bill, there was provision for charging \$1.00 and the substantiating information is here on the analysis of costs, which would cost less than 4 cents. The real cost would be the 15 cents the hospital would spend to send this sample to the State Health Department. So as you vote on the Committee amendments, I wanted you to be aware that by adopting the Committee amendments, which makes the bill palatable, and I put quotes around that "palatable" to the pathologists in the state, it does add to the costs of the individual who is being tested. With that I have no further remarks regarding the Committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Closing?

SPEAKER MARVEL: We're on the Committee amendments, right.

SENATOR CULLAN: Close on the Committee amendments?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, and Senator...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Excuse me, I'm sorry, Senator Clark, do you have your light on?

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President and members, I couldn't possibly support this bill under any condition, unless the Committee amendments are accepted, the reason being with hyperthyroidism, for instance, it's an instance of one in fifty thousand, the cost-benefit ratio really is not there, but it is now and was testified for an average of about