

April 18, 1979

LB 172

make it more efficient, provide better health, and have 97% of their beds full at all times. But you are going to put these people through the paces who have demonstrated fiscal soundness, efficient health care, in fact, outstanding health care but we are going to condemn a few for the actions of the many. I read the remarks Senator Hoagland put out the other day. He put out a scoop sheet, 40.7% of the beds of the State of Nebraska are empty. You bet, I was in Franklin County the other day. I went in that hospital on a call with the emergency squad, seven rooms being used, seven rooms in that hospital but yet it is a county hospital. So when you look at 40.7% of the beds that are not being used in this state, I suggest you take a look where they are not being used. Then if you want to become efficient, then each of us probably should become the administrator of the nursing homes, the hospitals in our districts because we are sitting here this afternoon and we are trying to prescribe and make people jump through ropes and handle paper and yet we are the ones who generally gripe the most about paper. You have allowed the Department of Health to, I think, dictate to you virtually everything they want at the expense of those men and women out there, either professionals or health care providers, who are trying to do the best job they can and hold costs as much as they can as well. I have a member of my immediate family in a health care center which is exceedingly costly but I submit to you her care is excellent and I wouldn't want to work in a health care center every day without getting paid a reasonable amount of money. So those of us who sit here and think that we now have a con bill, that is the acronym for certificate of need, we have solved the problem. I submit to you you have added additional problems and I am going to continue to call this bill the con bill until this body is willing to sit down and look at the consensus amendments and look at Senator Cullan and those who have labored hard on this bill and come up with some amendments that will be reasonable to both sides, and the only time you can get the attention of this body sometimes is offer a kill motion because two times, as Senator Chambers has said, too many times we become weary. All we are worried about is getting something put together and we are going to send it across there. If we have got too many nursing homes, I submit to you, too, that most of that is federal dollars or tax dollars and very little of it private dollars but there again we allowed it to be overbuilt. Why didn't the Legislature a long time ago have the wisdom and the foresight to see that possibly we were overbuilding based upon a diminishing supply of people in this state but, oh, no, when suddenly now the horse is gone, we are going to close the gate and we have

3577