

April 18, 1979

LB 172

SPEAKER MARVEL: Somebody fudged on me. Senator Kelly, you have the floor.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Nebraska Legislature, I support the kill motion as a protest to the amendments that would come up as the confiscation amendments from my notes, not consensus. Tax dollars go into these institutions whether they are publicly owned or whether they are privately owned and supposedly, supposedly the tax dollars that go into those institutions buy services for citizens of Nebraska, buy services for the citizens of Nebraska. Otherwise, there would be no tax dollars going in those institutions. If they are not providing the services at which the government can afford to pay for those services, then they should be stricken from the approved record and not be allowed to receive the tax dollars. A few years ago, this was done in Nebraska but we got improved and it is called cost plus and the nursing home operators across Nebraska fell all over themselves renting cars and airplanes and buying tickets to get to Lincoln to support the cost plus program so that they could belly up to the public trough to get these tax dollars that were going into the institutions. Immediately to control the cost of the cost plus, state government along with the federal government started putting in controls to contain the cost of the cost plus and Senator Dworak is scared of national health insurance but he is not one bit scared of government setting regulations, setting requirements, sending out inspectors, telling who can do what with private investment. This doesn't scare him but national health insurance scares him and I would like to know what in the dickens is the difference, Senator Dworak. Nationally, in 1973 there were 59 proprietary beds for 1,000 elderly and in 1976 that has moved up to 61 beds per 1,000 elderly. Now that is the national scope, but in Nebraska as you will see from these sketchy figures, a tremendous difference in the nursing home industry in Nebraska versus the nursing home industry in the United States and the figures, in 1973 in Nebraska there were 96 beds per 1,000 elderly, and in 1978, that drops to 92 beds per 1,000. Now those simple figures tell trends that you should understand....

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have got one minute.

SENATOR KELLY: ...is that nationally nonprofit, nonproprietary institutional beds is what is serving the elderly. In Nebraska our nursing home industry is proprietary oriented and most of our beds in Nebraska are private industry paying income taxes and paying property taxes and serving the govern-