

May 4, 1979

LB 172

Lewis, Fowler, Fitzgerald, Marsh, Brennan, Reutzel and Pirsch.

SPEAKER MARVEL: First of all, the Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, LB 172 advanced from General File several days ago. There was some concern by members of this body that the bill did not meet the needs of some of the individual providers of health care, did not satisfactorily answer all of the problems that were raised in certificate of need bill. After the bill advanced, those of us who had supported the consensus amendments met with some of the opponents of those amendments and have attempted to determine the areas of disagreement. We found at that time that there were about seven general areas of disagreement between us. Three of those had to do with the hospitals, several with the doctors and several with the nursing home people. After some discussion, it was determined that we could agree upon five of those amendments without very much discussion, and after several days of further conversation between us, we were able to agree upon the other two amendments. After numerous meetings and after a number of other conversations with interested persons, we have proposed these amendments and they are on your desk, I believe. They are also printed in the Journal. These amendments, as I said, deal principally with the acquisition of facilities or hospitals. They deal with the reduction in services by hospitals. They deal with a recapture provision on nursing homes. They provide a list of the equipment which must be provided for in the statute which limits the acquisition by doctors for their own offices and it also provides that there would be a provision whereby new equipment could be added to the list of exemptions that could be allowed to be purchased for doctors' offices and provides that procedure. The amendments, as I said earlier, are the result of many hours of work. I believe there are twenty-two persons who have signed these amendments and they are signed by individuals who were on both sides of the previous issue. The bill is still a strong certificate of need bill. If these amendments are adopted, it represents I think some of the best efforts of some of the very good minds of this body, excluding my own, and I would hope that the amendments would be adopted. Senator Hoagland, Senator Cullan, Senator DeCamp, Senator Johnson, Newell, Simon and many others have worked many hours on these amendments and Senator Hoagland at this time will explain the amendments, section by section, and how they pertain to the bill and he will