

February 22, 1980

LB 646

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Powers, do you wish to speak?

SENATOR POWERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this offering is my virgin offering to the Legislature and being new and naive I came in with a bill that I felt it was all encompassing and really it had the kitchen sink in it but then the reality set in and the opposition. I recognized the opposition. We had meeting after meeting. I compromised. I hate that word but I realized this had to happen. This bill as it is presented to you does not have the endorsement of the insurance company but it does not have the opposition of the insurance companies. I want to go on record as thanking them for their cooperation with this and I urgently, personally ask you to forward this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, I do, Mr. President. I would like to ask a question of Senator DeCamp if I may please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, Senator Vickers has a question.

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator DeCamp, has this Legislature ever mandated any place else in the statutes to any insurance company in the State of Nebraska what type of insurance that they should offer to the people of the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR DE CAMP: So far as I can recall and the information I have got, the answer is...

SENATOR VICKERS: Say the words, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Well the only thing we have done in recent years, we just did. That was a bill we just passed a couple of days ago mandate continuation of coverage. Remember the six months after the spouse or whatever dies, we mandated that they provide a program to continue coverage but for example, proposals have been brought in to the Legislature over the years to mandate chiropractic things, acupuncture, so on and so forth. We have never done those things. They have been rejected so this is probably the closest we have gone on specific things, specific programs or diseases. We are saying alcoholism is a disease and you've got to at least have a program available if somebody wants it in a group.