

ant to be present at ringside and that is the issue right there, and I am told, well, this isn't going to happen in Omaha. We have got plenty of physicians but it can happen in the rural areas and it will happen. The argument is made, well, we don't have enough physicians out in the rural areas so we have to have physician's assistants. Now that reminds me of a similar argument that we used in terms of having unqualified doctors in locales where there aren't very many doctors. You don't lower the standards just because you don't have enough qualified people. You keep those standards high. Now it seems to me, and maybe I am overdramatizing the point, but certainly we do not want to lower the standards of having qualified people serving at ringside at a fight. Now I have been told by Senator Newell and other people on the committee, a physician's assistant is qualified. If a physician's assistant was qualified, they wouldn't be called a physician's assistant. They would be called a physician. There is a difference between a physician's assistant and a physician. All I am saying is I don't want to see the type of thing that happened in New York happen in the State of Nebraska and it seems to me that we are lowering the standards by allowing physician's assistants to serve at ringside. I don't think that a physician's assistant has the qualifications, has the experience, has the knowledge to be able to tell if or not an individual is seriously hurt and if a fight should be stopped which a physician can do. To me this is taking a giant step backwards. I realize that there are not as many fights going on in outstate Nebraska as there would be down at the City Auditorium in Omaha but I think this is a very tragic and a very serious mistake and I bring this to the attention of the body in the hopes that they will support this amendment and not put this bill through as it currently stands.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Powers.

SENATOR POWERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, what happened in New York City happened in the ring and there is a big history behind that how the man falsified his record and changed his background and they weren't aware of the problems he had undergone in previous fights. Physician's assistants category is a whole new professional strata we have in the health care field. Physician's assistants are always assigned to or under the supervision of a qualified assistant. The things that happen at ringside which require medication or require hospitalization can be diagnosed by a physician's assistant. At ringside or at the