

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Chairman, I can see the smile on Senator DeCamp's face. He thought maybe we'd get by. I question the insurance companies at great length when this was before the Banking Committee. It is a 37 page bill and my good friend, Senator Barrett, who is in the insurance industry, makes it sound like this is just a simple clarification of language. I'm not going to fight it. I probably ought to, but I'm tired of fighting for the people. You've heard of the Nebraska Depositors (sic) Insurance Guaranty Corporation? What do they call this one? The Nebraska Insurance Guaranty Corporation. I don't think that will mislead the public into thinking the state is behind it at all. There are just so many things in this bill that I could talk about, but I've learned when an insurance bill gets out of the Banking Committee it usually goes 44 to 1 on the board. So let somebody else fight the battle today for the people, Marge Higgins is tired. And the insurance companies can ram it right through and Senator DeCamp can say this is a good bill. Everybody can say, that voted for it in the Banking Committee, that it is a great bill. And I say some day they'll look back and they'll say, my God, I remember when I voted for the NDIGC, I never had any idea it was going to turn out like this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I'd just rise briefly to support the passage of the bill for two or three reasons. Number one, what we are protecting in this bill is not insurance companies but policyholders. That is almost everybody. Secondly, what we are doing is not expanding exposure of the state but significantly reducing potential exposure. As I understand it there is one national firm alone that is fairly well known that is in a form of bankruptcy in which that parent firm had some interest in some insurance companies in Nebraska. I don't know what the eventual fallout could be, it will probably be some years. But it is many millions of dollars of potential exposure that ought to be not there. The key, why you all should have an interest, is the fact that whatever losses are covered are reduced in the premium tax. That has been true up-to-date. So the State of Nebraska has a very keen interest in reducing that exposure, not only for its own policyholders, but also on the receipt side of the premium tax. So I would urge the body to advance the bill because it has all the merits that Senator Barrett portrayed it to