

that one or more insurance companies, one particular one, had a whole bunch of properties insured there and, wham, over night they were hit with a massive amount of losses, more than they had in reserves and money and everything, they went belly up. What happened? The system stepped in, other insurance companies put the money in, the people that got their houses ruined were paid off. As you all know, the system worked perfect and then, little known to most people, they deducted it against the premium tax. So, in effect, the people of the State of Nebraska picked up the tornado at Grand Island. Now what this system does, with the amendments in the bill, is clarify and make that system a little more economical. It makes sure, for example, that it isn't an open-ended thing, we have some limitations. As Senator Barrett explained it, it makes a few other clarifications. But, so that it is not confused with the NDIGC, I thought you ought to know what the system is in the state because it has worked, probably will continue to work. It's pretty closely monitored. Since we put it into effect, I don't know, when was it, shortly after I became Banking Committee Chairman, I think a year or two years after, five, six, seven years ago, oh, it would be eight or ten years ago then. Anyway it's worked, it's worked well, it's done in most other states. Had we had this system in effect we wouldn't ever be talking about Commonwealth or all those problems today. I urge you to adopt the amendments. Senator Warner correctly stated that the amendments aren't for the benefit of insurance companies, quite the contrary, they are strictly for the benefit of policyholders. I would urge adoption of the amendments and advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I hate insurance companies. They are about a fingernail within the law because they can get Legislatures to legalize what otherwise ought to be outlaw conduct. Unfortunately, the realities of life have to be faced. Although this is an insurance bill in a way but, as Senator Warner has said, it is to help the policyholders, I've got to vote for a bill that can be construed to be an insurance bill even though I don't like it. They are going to be able to deduct from the premium tax and take care of whatever they have to go into this system with. It reminds me of how the white collar criminals are taken care of. A few years ago the executives of General Electric were found guilty of