

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator. Mary McGrath, of the Omaha World Herald, did a story similar to this, I believe it was 1983. In it she showed that in Omaha the difference in the cost in a hospital for the same, identical procedures was as high as \$300. So, if that is what this bill is designed to do, I think it would be very good for the public and it would possibly lower hospital costs. It is something that I would want to watch very closely to make sure that all that is intended today is carried out in 1987. But at this point, I'm willing to vote for the bill because I think Senator Wesely is at least making a start. It is going to take a longer time to really realize cost savings. But eventually it should help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lundy.

SENATOR LUNDY: Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Wesely a few questions.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely is on hand.

SENATOR LUNDY: Senator Wesely, I wonder, and I heard your reply to Senator Higgins relative to costs. And I believe your reply was there was no fiscal impact now?

SENATOR WESELY: With the bill, no, as amended no.

SENATOR LUNDY: Now what kind of costs would be in the wings then next year, or whenever you get around to negotiating or whatever you need to do for down the road? I understand there is nothing now, but all we are talking about now is having a standardized form for all hospitals and everything else to use. The fiscal impact from the original bill is 185...90 thousand.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR LUNDY: I'm just wondering what kind of costs...do we then get into buying a computer to assemble all of these and report to the feds...what kind of costs are in the wings out there?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, you raise a good question. The next step will involve perhaps some funding, perhaps not, from the state. The reason that that is still to be negotiated