

all hospitals all over the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Marsh, at the present time all hospitals in the State of Nebraska are exempt from all state sales taxes. St. Joseph Hospital was just recently purchased. It is no longer what they consider nonprofit, but I am asking that they be exempt only for the energy exemption, not any of the other sales taxes that they will be paying. But because they have such tremendous bills for air conditioning and heating, and I understand somehow in the process of running a hospital they have to use a great deal of chilled water in the laboratories and such, what we are talking about as far as the state goes is \$33,000, that would be the fiscal impact to the state, 30, 33,000.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Higgins, do I understand that this is a hospital which now is under management for profit?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Marsh, it is under management for profit but it does give \$4 million a year to the indigent. Proof of that is from people in my own district who have called me and told me of going to the emergency room of some other hospitals, and after finding out they had no insurance, they had no employment, they put them in a taxicab in at least two different occasions and sent them to St. Joe. St. Joseph Hospital, Senator Marsh, is located in the eastern part of Omaha, down around 30th Street, which is my district, and as you know...

SENATOR MARSH: I have been there.

SENATOR HIGGINS: You have been there?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Okay. This is where the Police Department brings everybody who they know can't pay after an accident...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me. Excuse me, ladies, a moment. (Gavel.) Would you gentlemen please hold it down so we can hear the ladies, please. Thank you.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson.