

present global concept, all over the world, to claims made by Nebraska policyholders. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Any discussion? Oh, that is right, you have amendments, Mr. Clerk. Go ahead.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have several amendments. The first is by Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, we are ready to take up an amendment to one of your bills, if you would care to come in. We will move on. We will hold Senator Chambers amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, I also have one from Senator Vard Johnson who is excused until he arrives. Senator Marsh would move to amend, Mr. President. (Marsh amendment is found on page 1394 of the Legislative Journal for the First Session.)

PRESIDENT: Let's take up the Marsh amendment. Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment would allow certified registered nurse anesthetists to be directly reimbursed for their services by insurance companies. Certified registered nurse anesthetists are important to our state. Rural Nebraska is served exclusively by nurse anesthetists while the larger cities are served by both, nurse anesthetists and M.D. anesthesiologists. Department of Health statistics show that in 1983 nurse anesthetists provided the anesthesia care for 67 percent of surgical procedures in Nebraska. Please note that nurse anesthetists provide the majority of anesthesia care in Nebraska. For the nation, nurse anesthetists provide the anesthesia care for slightly more than 50 percent but in Nebraska it is 67 percent. Here is some more background. Nationally in 1983, the median annual earnings of nurse anesthetists was approximately \$27,750 compared with anesthesiologists whose net median income was \$110,000 as reported by the Health Care Financing Administration. Nurse anesthetists practice in three ways, first, as a hospital employee, second, as a physician employee, or, third, as self-employed professionals billing directly where direct reimbursement is possible, and contracting with hospitals where it is not possible. The