

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: I will call the question as long as you don't say anything naughty.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. I believe the next one was going to call the question so it won't be necessary. Senator Vard, would you like to close?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I am going to close, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I think this discussion has been a good discussion this morning. It has been a very useful discussion this morning, and I am going to talk about an ancient law of currency. I think this law was developed by some economist in the 1700s called Gresham, and Gresham's law is that in the area of currency, it is the bad currency that drives out the good, and we have got a Gresham's law operating now. It is not the problem of Blue Cross-Blue Shield or Mutual of Omaha or Senator Lynch or John Humpal or Ted Fraizer or anybody else. But the bad currency is the federal self-insurance laws and I want you to know that I have personally written Hal Daub as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and have specifically outlined the problem I am going to address to indicate how that bad currency is driving out the good currency. Because federal law says we are going to cover the field totally and absolutely in the nonregulation, the nonregulation of self-insurance coverage, it then means that every big company, Union Pacific, Northwestern Bell, and the State of Nebraska can write their own self-insurance programs with no standards, with no standards. So here the old Nebraska Legislature, bless its heart, over the years has attempted to address, has attempted to address those kinds of provisions that you and I collectively believe we ought to have in our health insurance coverages and our insurance coverages, and it turns out that these provisions that you and I think we ought to have in our insurance coverages end up costing premium payers more money than without there in the self-insurance packages because the self-insurance packages don't have to have the same standards in them, and we can't touch them. And we can't touch them. So Senator Lynch says because we can't touch self-insurance, we ought to discontinue touching regular insurance, and I tell you this, if you make that decision not to touch regular insurance, here are the things over time that you can give up because they are in the law right now. Give up your