

asked to pay the equivalent of what they would have paid if they had to have gone out to private insurers anyway. It doesn't require them to get any insurance now or next year or for the next 20 years, because for the next 20 years, the public is financing this for these private entrepreneurs. But in the year 2010, in the year 2010, if you adopt this amendment, it says that we are going to go back to the old system, the old private enterprise system, and if you adopt this amendment, it will not be a sudden cutoff of funds to these people, but they will be gradually paying more and more of the costs of their own insurance. I don't think there is anything impractical about how the amendment would work, and there is not just one insurance company that offers the insurance. I have got a list in front of me of one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven companies that currently offer insurance. So it is not a situation where there is just one insurer out there. I don't know how to approach this problem. I have tried different ways. I can tell you this, that this is important enough, though, that if the socialized system that we are putting into effect is adopted, I will be back year after year with a bill until I can find the formula that pleases you all for getting us back to the private enterprise system because I think this is an unfortunate departure, a necessary departure. Again, I am in agreement with the fact that many of these people are innocent of the problem that is out there, and the problems the federal government is forcing us to face right now. And we should help them with that. I don't have any problems with socializing that cost. But I think it is a major mistake, and I think the most conservative approach you can take to this problem, the most conservative position that you can have, is to say that we stand by the private enterprise system. That is the assumption we make, and that is the assumption we are going to make by adopting the Beutler amendment. If, in future years, that needs adjustment, fine, but shouldn't we operate from the premise that the private enterprise system is what we believe in? It is what works best. It is what puts the cost of various products back where they belong, rather than completely socializing the cost of a particular economic area. So that is all that the amendment does, and I would ask for its adoption. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: You have heard Senator Beutler's closing. We will now proceed to a vote on the amendment offered by Senator