

anticompetitive, anticost containment, is a step backward, not a step forward, in the need to restrain health care costs. I'd ask your opposition to the bill and I'd give whatever remaining time I have to Senator Janssen.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Madam Chair, members, I think it's getting down to an insurance thing. The insurance industry has provided no specific data which indicates and encourages utilization of mail order pharmacies that will decrease health care costs. We're not aware of any current survey. There are indications that mail order pharmacies does not result in health care cost savings. In a letter to the insurance carriers for the federal employees health benefit plan issued by the U.S. Office of the Personnel Management, 1987, it was indicated that, contrary to early expectations, mail order prescriptions do not appear to reduce the total expenditure of drugs. In addition, in July of 1989, General Motors indicated that after years of utilizing mail order pharmacies as a cost-containment measure, they had experienced no cost-savings to corporations through this system. Finally, in a study in the late eighties by a pharmaceutical card system indicated the costs were revealed to be 5 percent higher in the mail order drug program than in neighborhood pharmacies and the mail order pharmacies were the least cost effective among those who take far and away the most prescription medication in the elderly. I ask for your continued support on 718 because I don't believe the horror stories that we have heard are going to happen. I just don't think they're going to happen. Thank you. I'd give the rest of my time to Senator Bohlke.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, how much time?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: There's four minutes left, Senator.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Oh, that's.... Madam President and members, just a response, Senator Wesely indicated that he thought that the vote came after lunch and we hadn't had ample time to answer some questions. Just prior to that he indicated that we had spent two hours on the bill. Before that on General File we spent hours on the bill. We did work on an amendment that was a major amendment exempting the HMOs and so when he says the