

April 1, 1974

SENATOR R. LEWIS: It seems to me that we're initiating programs here at a time when that they are discussing a total overall merger of all the schools. Wouldn't we be interfering with the total overall programming and then to initiate programs like this at this time?

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think my own feeling is that the people in this particular career field have looked at this thing and I think we're talking about answering a need that exists in local areas. And I think that the thing we're talking about at Kearney State College is a need that exists in the Central Nebraska area. The two existing diploma nursing schools in the area are...no, I wouldn't say they're really in trouble...but there are some developments in terms of MEDICARE funding of hospital bills and things like this that mean that we have to be moving on this thing. So I don't think that this is an area where we're over-developing. I think this is an area where we're really answering a specific need that has been identified.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, could I continue, sir?

PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Well, where would they get their in-service training? And I'm not trying to pick this program to pieces.

SENATOR ANDERSON: I have a copy of the study that was completed.....

(End of Belt 3A)

(Begin Belt 4A)

as a result of the 1972-73 appropriation. And they have indicated there that there are...what, five hospitals in the tri-city area...Hastings, Grand Island and Kearney. Mary Lanning in Hastings, St. Francis in Grand Island and the Veterans Hospital in Grand Island, Lutheran Hospital in Grand Island and the hospital in Kearney...Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney who have all indicated a willingness to cooperate in the development of this plan so that each of these hospitals would be available for the clinical...clinical training. Without the cooperation of all of these hospitals, I don't think it would be possible to even develop the plan.

PRESIDENT: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that we in the Budget Committee thought we were probably about a year early on this program. We don't have any details. We don't have any plans on this. We're also talking about the merger. Personally I think we're just too early to talk about having a program at Kearney at this particular time on nursing. The nurses themselves haven't even gotten together as you can see on LB963. They're talking about performing surgery and practicing medicine and everything else in that particular bill...section 3 of that bill. So I just don't think it's time that we could have this particular one.