

SENATOR REMMERS: Go ahead, Senator Haberman, you still have some time.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Mr. President, beings I went back and just saw Senator Warner's light on, no doubt he is going to support this...or oppose this amendment in all of his eloquence and his committee, and I don't think I'm going to win, so I will withdraw that amendment to save time on the floor.

SENATOR REMMERS: Senator Haberman's amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senators Nichol, DeCamp, Schmit, Baack, Lamb, Haberman, and Scofield. (Amendment is printed on page 1462 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR REMMERS: Senator Nichol. Senator Nichol, is he here? Senator Nichol, on your amendment.

CLERK: I understand you want to withdraw your first amendment, Senator, you had, and offer an amendment that is found on page 1549 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Yes. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I apologize for being out of the room at the time this came up. This amendment adds \$100,000 to the budget, to the Medical Center, to be in phasing in a baccalaureate degree for nursing program in West Nebraska General Hospital. The West Nebraska General has operated a diploma school since 1924. It is my understanding that from now on you should have four years to be a nurse. The school out there serves within a radius of approximately 125 miles, and 50 percent of all of the nurses, registered nurses in that area graduate from West Nebraska General Hospital. West Nebraska General Hospital worked with the University of Nebraska School of Nursing for several years to establish this baccalaureate program and they are still in favor of it. Efforts to phase in the program worked along smoothly until our budget problems starting popping up a year or so ago. The purpose of bringing this up is very serious with me, and should be serious with us since, in my opinion, one of the main things this state should be doing is educating people. As perhaps you noticed, West Nebraska General is one of those that recently had a larger percent of deaths in