

SENATOR WILL: Madam President, I move the advancement of LB 292 to E & R for engrossment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: You've heard the motion to advance LB 292. All those in favor please say aye. Opposed nay. LB 292 is advanced. We will proceed with General File, LB 400.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, with respect to LB 400, it's a bill that was introduced by Senator Schellpeper, Senator Dierks, and Senator Rogers. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 17 of this year, was referred to the Health and Human Services Committee, they report the bill to General File.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members. LB 400 is my priority bill this year. It's another health bill. I think that rural health for Nebraska is something that we need to get a hold of and try to help as much as we can. This will set up the Professional Incentive Act that will help to put doctors into rural Nebraska again. What it is, it's a loan forgiveness, if you go to rural Nebraska... Now we also, when we consider rural Nebraska we consider areas that are critical areas, and we consider areas that are just considered rural areas. And this bill, if you are going to locate in what we consider a real critical area, that you can receive up to \$40,000, \$10,000 a year loan forgiveness of your medical expenses in order to be a doctor. And, if you would locate in an area that is just a rural area, but not a critical rural area, you would not receive that much of a grant. This bill will replace the Rural Health Manpower Commission that we've had in place for several years. That will run out this year, so this bill has to be enacted in order to keep this commission going longer yet. But there is no fiscal note on the bill. We're hoping to have the local communities raise some funds themselves. We're hoping that they can raise up to maybe \$10,000 themselves. We'll see more about that as we get into the bill. But we're hopeful that that's what they'll be able to actually raise. So there would be no fiscal note. But I think there is a bill... or a bill like this is very worthy for rural areas, because without that there is no way to get these doctors out into what we consider the very critical areas. They do like to locate into Fremont, Norfolk, and areas like that. But that