

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I think everybody probably agrees that we do have a problem in rural Nebraska with our nurses. We have hospitals, we have nursing homes that just cannot find any nurses. However, I do think that this bill needs to be studied a little further and I have told Senator Nelson that. I think we need to look at it and try to put something in the bill that has to do with actual need in order to keep them in these rural areas. And I don't think we need to kill it, but I think we need to study this thing a lot further. I have three problems with this bill and they are the \$500 a year. I don't think it is enough to really get them out into the rural areas, and I think we have to have a need. You can't just give it to somebody no matter what they are actually...if they can afford it or not, and I think we need to have it so they have to stay in Nebraska. We can't have...give them \$500 and have them go off to Hawaii or to some other town, we need to keep them in Nebraska. So if we can get these things narrowed down, I think the bill would be a good bill, but at the present time, I think we need to work on these things. Thank you. Bernard-Stevens wants the rest of my time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. To continue on on a couple of other points in addition, in the committee we heard a tremendous amount of testimony from nurses and it was difficult testimony to listen to because it was such a hardship that they had to go through in order to get their nurse's degree, particularly in the RN. One of the nurses stated that she had to work a second job and she had children and it was very difficult and a time she was unable to get even much sleep trying to make all the ends meet and still get her nurse's degree training and it was a terrible hardship case. I asked a question of the nurse that testified. I said, if the bill passed, 357, and you received all the benefits that was possible under the bill, would that have made any difference on your lifestyle or what you would have had to have done in order to obtain your nurse's degree? And the answer came back clear and simply, no, it would not have changed anything. I still would have needed to take the extra job, I still would have had the problems and difficulties. So the money incentive in the bill, if people think that that is a great incentive to get people in, no, sir, it's not. It is not enough. The other questions that were asked in committee also disturbed me