

I want to explain that this is not intended to be funny, but the plain facts are that the reason you have young ladies that come from the rural areas many times and remain in the cities of Omaha and Lincoln is because those farm girls and small town girls go down to the big city and they study nursing and what happens? Those city slickers, the lawyers and the doctors and the engineers marry them and keep them there. You can do more good, Senator Nelson, to bring people back to the rural areas and the small towns, and I don't suppose that Senator Warner would cooperate, but if you would find some way to finance a party once a week or once a month in the nursing schools and send a bunch of those farm lads and small town lads down there and meet those girls, they'd take them back...they'd marry them and take them back to Bellwood, and that's what my brother did, and that is how you get the nurses out there and that's why there are nurses at all there, otherwise there wouldn't be anyone there because the attraction of the city is so much greater. You'd have to question their wisdom to work in the small towns and the small town hospitals where the hours are not as flexible, the work load is heavy, the burden is greater, they just would not go back there unless the remuneration is substantially improved. I appreciate, and I have the highest respect for the people in the nursing profession. They need some help, but they are the forgotten people of the medical profession. Many years ago when I sponsored the bill that provided for the physician assistant program, again, my sister said we've had physicians assistants for 40, 50 years, but they called them nurses and paid them \$300 a month. The nursing profession is underpaid and overworked, we all know that. And we're going to be discussing some of those things probably one of these days when we discuss the health care costs and some other facts, but, ladies and gentlemen, you're not going to help the profession unless you find some way to improve the salaries. I believe Senator Nelson was right, you're not going to pay off a loan with a \$12,000 job. That isn't going to do it. And it doesn't make much sense for us to try to entice someone into a program with \$500 or \$1,000 and then think they are going to go back to Bellwood or Bruno or David City and work for four or five or maybe \$10,000 less than they can get in the large community, and the small hospital, the small doctor's office out there cannot afford to pay them comparably to what they can be paid in Lincoln and Omaha. I could go on here and blame that whole situation on the fact that for some reason or another we spend a lot more of the state revenues in those two towns and, therefore, the ability to pay is greatly enhanced but that isn't