

the problem. The problem is that we all know rural Nebraska notwithstanding some valiant effort on the part of many people is in deep, deep trouble financially, geographically, physically in many different areas and I don't know what we're going to do about that problem. I'll tell you one more thing, whenever one of us needs an operation, what do we do? We hop on the bus and we head straight for Lincoln or Omaha and that's also normal, because we say, well, out in my territory the doctors and nurses don't have as much practice and, good old me, I need the very best so I'm going to go where they've got someone who does more of that kind of surgery. We're going to have to try to get those wages up out there in the rural areas. We're going to have to do something for the nursing profession in that regard, but unless we do...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...the shortage of nurses will continue to increase. It will become more critical in future years than it is today and so I don't think, Senator Nelson, in three years from now the need for your bill will be less, it will be more, but I don't think the bill is going to solve the problem and, therefore, I'm going to have to support the motion to indefinitely postpone.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I rise in support of Senator Withem's motion to indefinitely postpone this bill although I do believe that the bill does address a very important and very pressing need. The issue of lack of nurses is not just one of a lack of nurses in the rural area. My wife happens to be an RN, and there are every week in the paper, in the classified ads in Omaha, every weekend there are what I call bounties that are listed for those jobs. They are bonuses, so to speak, for a \$1,000 if you will come to work at a hospital in Omaha. Not only are there bonuses listed in the paper but they do it within their own ranks. They offer nurses who are on staff \$500 to bring one of their friends over to come to work at that hospital and they will pay their friend a \$1,000 bonus to move over. It is not just a problem that is in the rural area, it is a problem statewide, it is a problem nationwide if you follow some of the reports that have been out with regard to this. The issue is not one of...and the incentive that is in