

last and that was my reason for contacting the UN-O Medical Center, my reason for again contacting those people that I mentioned to see if we could come up with some criteria or some way of determining need. And Joe Preusser, head of Central Community College, the Platte nursing program and so on, spent a considerable amount of time. He says, I went over the bills and I went over the bills and trying to...he is the one that suggested the little place where I put licensed by the Nebraska...I very much am willing to work.

SENATOR SMITH: All right, with the need part of it though. You'll be willing to amend it so that it is based on need, just yes or no.

SENATOR NELSON: (Inaudible) yes.

SENATOR SMITH: All right, thank you. So that's something that I think everyone should keep in mind. This could still be done. This is on General File as we all know, and there is plenty of time to do that to the bill and I would support that. And I would...since we're all talking about what everyone else said here and correcting everyone, I thought maybe I would just like to respond to a remark made by Senator Bernard-Stevens this morning when he said we all, I have some facts, too. I would hope, Senator Bernard-Stevens, all of us have some facts, at least based on our own perspective when we stand up to speak and you did raise a fact by the very fact that you talked about the low pay in the rural areas. And I would remind you that that is the very reason that these people that are in the rural areas are not going to be able to move to Lincoln or Omaha just because they upgrade themselves from an LPN to the next higher degree. A lot of the people in rural Nebraska, and you're from rural Nebraska so you should be aware of this, your wife is a doctor. These people are very low paid. Many of them have not been able to afford to go on to increase their education and their expertise because of the low pay and they are usually set in that setting there and they are not going to be able to get out of there. They are in many cases married to someone else who lives in the community; they have children; they are working families. Those people are not going to pick up and leave the community after they have increased that one level for the difference in the pay that they are going to be able to receive. And I think that the heart of it is, these are the people that we're talking about and that is why I'm so very supportive of amending the bill so that it is based on need. With that, I