

will just say, please don't support the IPP at this time. Please just let us work with the bill, we may be able to work Senator Schellpeper's concerns in with the bill, and at this point, I'd like to give the rest of my time to Senator Nelson since Senator Wesely gave it to me. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: You have one minute on...let's see, it is Senator Hall's time, isn't it? Just a moment...okay, you're on now.

SENATOR NELSON: All right. First place is, one of the problems in the rural area, and all of you know this starts on the federal level. The hospitals and the nursing homes, Medicaid does not pay them as much out in Red Cloud, Nebraska, as they do in Omaha. These nursing homes' hands are tied in the amount of money that they can pay. They can't automatically raise wages by \$3.00 an hour. And back to Senator Bernard-Stevens, they've got to be educated before they can move to Omaha or Lincoln. These are families. These are ladies that are 35, 40 years old. Senator Goodrich has a bill, 753, whatever it is. You talk about incentives not working. There is a \$5,000 medical doctor incentives for serving in the rural areas. His bill expands that to dental technicians, hospital x-ray technicians and so on and so forth. That bill is coming down the pipeline. So it apparently has worked and there is a \$5,000 incentive, as I say, for medical doctors. That is coming up it. My reason for three years is hopefully that the communities and the state can somehow or another address the nursing problem and the nursing shortage. I'm not out here to say I've got a quick fix. There is no way, but this is a situation that is serious and that we do need to adjust it. I am willing to work with Senator Schellpeper, I said the other night. I made those calls. No one has brought me in any amendments saying...

PRESIDENT: Time is up.

SENATOR NELSON: ...let's amend your bill, Arlene. I offered to amend his bill into mine because it's coming down the pipeline later. It may or may not be heard this year. I...

PRESIDENT: Time is up.

SENATOR NELSON: Is my time soon?

PRESIDENT: Yes, it's up, but you may finish your sentence.