

SENATOR NELSON: All right. I definitely have offered to work and I asked them for amendments, bring me in something. They are not able to bring it in yet, so if we IPP the motion, the bill, no way can we address that. I have offered to do it, I've offered to direct the need and I've offered to direct the basis and I've tightened it up, it's Nebraska only, and I'm offering any amendments. I can increase the amount of the bill, too, if it's not enough.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Smith, you are next, followed by Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Nelson, do you need my time?

SENATOR NELSON: I think they have heard enough from me this morning, but I hope that some of them are listening and the situation is serious and back again to explaining that wages. And when you're saying this is a pittance amount, it's not helping, I purposely tried to keep the cost of the bill down. I tried to narrow that bill as much as I could. By some of the bills that we're passing out in Education Committee and by the bill we heard last night and by some of the increased asking for salaries at institutions and so on, I shouldn't be ashamed to bring this bill in for two or three million dollars and it probably would help, and I'm open to an amendment to make it \$1,000 instead of 500. And I'm sure that it is going to entice some more and that rural family out there, they are not going to pick up and trot off to Omaha. There are other family obligations and we're not addressing...we're trying to beat around the bush on it. Everybody cannot go to Omaha, everybody cannot go to Lincoln and those little old people get just as sick in Sutton, Nebraska, or Cambridge, Nebraska, or North Platte as they do in Omaha or Lincoln. And I know there is a discrepancy in the wages. There was not that discrepancy there until about six months ago. It was only about a \$1.00 an hour difference and I can provide those figures to you from western Nebraska from the 890 study. In fact, maybe I ought to provide those to you. The figures that I have are not as current as they should be, but I will tell you that there isn't that much difference. There was about a dollar or two, but I know they have changed in just the last month or so, so I'm not disputing the three or \$4.00 an hour, maybe that there is a difference there, but if you kill this bill today, you have simply not given it the opportunity. I have offered and I offer yet today, and I've asked for amendments, I asked for help from Senator