

you what the bill did. There are three parts of the bill, and the main concern and the main part and the main interest of the bill is to attract both male and female into the nursing profession, get them in there, get them accustomed and to become nurses. All of you are very, very familiar with the severe nursing shortage. I don't think I need to stand here and waste a lot of time on that. The new OBRA mandates, that will be effective in 1990, states that we will have two types of nursing homes. One will be the ICF one which is...has to be eight hours of a registered nurse on duty, and the other 16 hours a licensed nurse, and the other is a skilled nursing home care which is 24-hour RN nursing duty. The Nebraska Hospital Association is telling me, and the Nursing Home Association, that particularly the nursing home in order to reach that mandate may have to apply on the federal level to get an extension of that time because there simply are not enough nurses out there at this time to meet that mandate. My bill would give \$500 to first-time nursing students, not to students that are enrolled now because they are already enticed into nursing, for each academic year, or equivalent of 30 semester credit hours in accordance with the State Board of Nursing at an approved Nebraska nursing program in Nebraska for their training. That is associate diploma, a BSN or an LPN. The second part, a very, very important part of the bill is offered primarily by UN-L or the UN-O Medical Center and Bishop Clarkson Hospital. It is an off-campus study program. It was given two and one-half years ago on a trial basis in North Platte and about 90 students enrolled right now. What this does is it allows that working mother, very often a middle-aged lady, a single parent, to upgrade her education from an associate degree nursing, RN, or a diploma, to a BSN. As I said, there are about 90, actually, 92 students, Bishop Clarkson. UN-L has almost the same program that is offered all over the state, and it, in essence, will allow a girl or a lady to upgrade her education from like neonatal care or ICU care or so on. It is an off-campus course. They can take the bulk of it by home instruction video and then complete their clinical courses. This is a very, very important part of the bill. Every one tells me how great this has helped. The bill would give \$50 per hour credit. Bishop Clarkson charges 157, and UN-L, their charge for that is \$50 per credit hour. Keep in mind this reaches many, many times that single working mother that would like to upgrade her education and still has to work and support her family. The third part would be an incentive to serve in the rural areas. I know that when the bill was heard the first time, there was a criticism and a