

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Oh, sorry. We have two different things in the bill right now. We have one with 10,000 and down and then also with 50,000 and that is counties, not cities, it's counties,...

SENATOR GOODRICH: But you don't say that in the bill.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: ...50,000 people in a county.

SENATOR GOODRICH: You better, in your amendments, you better designate those, that is counties.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: We do. The amendment does do that.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Oh, okay, thank you.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: That's in the amendment.

SENATOR GOODRICH: I would just caution the three senators that are working on this, Nelson, Smith and Schellpeper, that there are nursing shortages in the rest of the state as well, not just the rural communities. Granted, we have a few more nurses in a community like Omaha or Lincoln but, by the same token, we still have three and four pages of ads in the World-Herald every Sunday wanting nurses for the urban areas just as well. So I see where you're solving the problem...or I'll put it this way, you're not solving anything when it comes right down to it, but you are attempting to solve the problem for the rural communities but you're not doing a darn thing to solve the nursing shortage in urban areas. Nelson, would you like to respond.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, we are. I tried very hard not to make this an urban-rural split. As you know, the shortage is not quite as great in the urban areas and one of the main reasons is Medicaid and Medicare allow a much higher payment for the metropolitan-urban hospitals than they do rural, allows them to pay a little more. That differential is only about a dollar an hour but, as I found out as I had the figures yesterday. But we do, we have the one rural incentive program but we have the educational incentive program which is the main portion of the bill and that is very much attune to urban areas as well as the rural areas, the BSN, the \$1,000 and the ADN and the LPN. The main portion of the bill is urban and rural, the educational