

January 26, 1990

LB 520, 852, 872, 1121

Government Committee reports LB 852 to General File, LB 872 to General File, and LB 1121 to General File, those signed by Senator Baack as Chair. I have a confirmation hearing report offered by the Natural Resources Committee, and notice of hearing from Natural Resources. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (See page 532 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you. In that case we'll move on to General File, LB 520.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 520 was a bill originally introduced by Senator Schellpeper and Dierks and Senator Smith. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 18 of last year, Mr. President. At that time it was referred to the Health Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. Senator, I have...you want to offer your amendment first, or would you like to talk about the bill for a moment?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I'll probably just talk about the bill first, and explain what it does.

PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I think, first of all, I want you to know I'm not going to put 769 into 520. I wanted you to know that before I get started. LB 520, as amended now, is an incentive bill to get nurses to go back to rural Nebraska. It's also designed to get them into nursing. At the present time there is a tremendous shortage in the entire state in nursing. In fact I just received a note that there is 938 vacancies in nursing homes alone in Nebraska at the present time. So you can see, we have a tremendous shortage, not only in rural Nebraska but in the entire state. LB 520 is designed to get the nontraditional student to go into nursing. We're trying to get the housewife, the mother, maybe some man, the low income, the minority student that will...from rural Nebraska to go into nursing and then go back to that area, because it seems like once they get into Omaha and Lincoln they do not come back to rural Nebraska. So we're hoping that we can get this student from rural Nebraska to go into nursing, we don't care where they go, any school they want to in Nebraska, that then they will come back to where they live. And I think that that will help the nursing shortage. I realize that 60 nurses is not very many, but it is a start. And if we can do 60