

amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The motion fails. The Chair is pleased to note that we have a number of nurses, 65 nurses and nursing students from all over Nebraska with us this morning representing the Nebraska Nurses Association, and their President, Gloria Gross. Would you people please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're very pleased to have you with us this morning. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit would move to amend. Senator, I have the State Patrol amendment before me. (The Schmit amendment appears on page 1333 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I want to thank the body for that vote on that previous amendment. I guess it ought to tell me something and maybe deliver a little message but I'm not going to belabor the point. I am going to ask at this time that another amendment be added to this bill and this is an amendment to provide for \$1 million for the Highway Patrol to purchase a new helicopter. The present equipment is 11 years old. It will require almost two years' time if we were to purchase a helicopter now to get delivery on it. Now there are those who perhaps may look at the helicopter as a toy and, if so, then you ought perhaps to ground the one that you have. But the facts are that it is a very valuable piece of equipment to the Nebraska Safety Patrol. We like to get up on this floor and talk about what we're going to do for law enforcement. And I recall a year ago I took this bill and another bill to the Appropriations Committee and the other bill was a million dollars for overtime for the Highway Patrol. And, at that time, the Appropriations Committee did place \$250,000 in their bill for overtime. This year, Governor Orr recommended a million dollars for overtime in her fight against illegal drugs and I commend her for that. I would suggest that perhaps if we do not buy the helicopter this year, there will come a time when someone will stand on this floor and impress upon you the great overwhelming need to buy another helicopter. It's kind of unusual that you can buy those little "scraunchy" Mustangs by the dozen and we can buy about everything else we need but a piece of equipment which will replace 20 or 30 pieces of ground equipment or maybe even more and which provides a unique arm of