

be doing is establishing a strategic plan for higher education and they will not only establish that plan and publish it, they will use that plan in their other deliberations. They will use that plan primarily in program review. If the strategic plan of the state is that nursing education ought to be conducted around a particular set of objectives when schools come forward asking permission to establish new nursing, the commission will make its determination against what is in a strategic plan. That's the purpose of the strategic plan. There are other things...lots of things in this strategic plan. The committee, when it reviewed the draft of the bill, thought that there were too many things for them to do in a single year. So we asked to prioritize certain items in the strategic plan that are necessary for creation of a plan that will be used in program review. That was the reason for prioritizing some items, not prioritizing others, things like financial aid, as an example, there are some other things, are not necessary to establish this program review idea. We didn't want to tell people that they had to wait five years while a strategic plan is being written to bring their program enhancement ideas or detracting ideas to the commission. So we prioritized some items. Some individuals, and I think it was primarily the private colleges, were a little concerned that we were deemphasizing other portions of the plan. That's not the intent at all that those ought to be deemphasized. I think what Senator Johnson is doing here is saying that if information exists that they don't have to go out and do new studies, spend a lot of time on it, and if they can make inclusions of some of these items in with the first portion of their strategic plan, they certainly have our legislative intent behind them to do that. And that's, I think, all that the Johnson amendment does is it says that they need not...need not wait until all of the other portion of the plan is done before addressing these other ideas if they do have sufficient information to accomplish that. So I think Senator Johnson's amendment might be more of a clarification amendment as far as our intent on how we want to see the commission proceed with the development of the strategic plan and I plan on voting for it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Further discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Rod Johnson. Do you wish to close, Senator Rod Johnson?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker. I simply would like the body to adopt the amendment to give the commission some latitude to examine these certain areas if the data is