

September 29, 1992 LB 29

when you compare that \$85,000 with 1.7 million for 144 students, it doesn't take much of a mathematician to see who is being heavily subsidized. So I, as I say, it brought me to my feet when they started calling College Park the same as Curtis. It is a different set of students, both schools, I think, the courses offered. I do have a question of Senator Peterson, and I never got an answer on this the other day, and since his daughter went there, I am very familiar with the LPN courses, and the associate degree nursing courses, and it only takes a year to be an LPN. It was extended from nine months to a 12 months course, and they can ladder up to be an associate nurse, or an RN in two years. Why does it take, and you can graduate from LPN school and go to the ICU units, so why does it take two years for a vet tech course except to keep their enrollment up in the college? I can't quite get that through my head.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Your question is why in just two years you can do through vet tech.

SENATOR NELSON: Why does it take two years for a vet tech course where it only takes one year to be an LPN nurse?

SENATOR PETERSON: Well, the vet tech program that is very extensive out at Curtis, and you might want to ask Senator Dierks this too, but with my daughter, two years of no...there is no vacation or anything. I mean it is constant. They have to take quite a course, and then I think she spent like two months at a vet for that, and then she went...

SENATOR NELSON: In other words, you are satisfied that it does take two years time to fill the job right. And then I asked a lady after the hearing the other day, who is now working, and Senator Dierks kind of explained this to me a little bit. She is now working as a student and is not a graduated vet tech yet, and she told me her salary was \$5 an hour. So I said, well, how in the world can we, as a state, subsidize your tuition at about \$8,500 plus the amount that you are paying in for two years of school and justify that. Well, Senator Dierks, and I know what it is out in the greater country, economics determines the wages or the salaries, but I just have a problem in my mind, you know, if you can be an LPN, and I don't know, maybe they are teaching more than...maybe it is necessary. Maybe the veterinarians let them do that much work, but I could see that program moving over