

March 6, 1980

LB 847

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay, I do know and let me say that the hearing was very lengthy, and because of the length of the hearing, a number of individuals who planned to testify perhaps on both sides did not get the opportunity to do that, Senator Johnson, and that may not be reflective of all the support that exists for this bill. Let me say that I believe this bill is very much needed. I used to wonder what the Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee did. I didn't know that they really had a serious function. This proves to me that they do. They uncovered what I think, and I am going to use language, perhaps I am not as nice as Senator Kelly is, but I think Senator Kelly found what I would call administrative incompetence. Senator Kelly told us a few seconds ago that today in the State of Nebraska about ten percent of the nurses in this state are operating on permits and there is only one reason for that and that reason is that the State Board of Nursing did not take timely action to implement the laws of the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Now was that a product, though, I mean is that why Mr. Keetle and Mr. Schultz spoke on behalf of the bill?

SENATOR CULLAN: I believe that they spoke on behalf of this bill because, and as I recall their testimony, the nurses of the state have a good deal of confusion as to what the rules are or what the rules are not and I think that they want some consistency from the Board of Nursing as I recall their testimony.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay, thank you, Senator Cullan. I am not sure, to be truthful with you, fellow legislators, precisely how I am going to vote on this bill and I really am looking forward to the floor debate but I just want to make a comment and that is this. If in fact, if in fact this bill is being advanced because of administrative incompetence, that simply is that whoever the person who is the Executive Director of the Board of Nursing is not doing a good job with rules and regulations, it really may be a case of overkill because customarily when someone is not competent as the head of an organization we remove that person one way or another rather than take the organization itself and put it under the umbrella of another organization and then allow the other organization to effectively call the shots. So if that is the only motivation, Senator Cullan, I am not so sure that is adequate in terms of advancing this particular bill. Thank you.

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