SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you have an amendment to the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit's amendment is on page 906 of the Journal.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I believe the situation has been adequately explained by Senator Cullan and Senator Kelly. I think that it is imperative that the nurses who are not now covered under the bill be relicensed. My amendment will provide that they can all have a license if they apply within sixty days and that they will have until 1983, January 1, 1983, to complete the training requirements for that license at that time. I move adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak, your light is on. Do you wish to speak? Senator Cullan, your light is on. We are on the Schmit amendment to the bill.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I support the Schmit amendment. As he explained it, I believe that the delay is appropriate because of some of the confusion, some of the problems that have developed with implementing this legislation. I support the continuing education requirements which we have but I think that we have to now take some action so that nurses in the State of Nebraska know what the rules and regulations are and they have time to become accustomed to them. I would like to continue for just a second and this will be the last time I will speak on this bill, but I would like to continue for just a second and respond to some additional questions that Senator Johnson raised. I think this bill is important and I think it is...this bill, my support is coming from an individual who believes the State Department of Health should be a code agency and it seems perhaps inconsistent for me to be assigning additional functions to the State Department of Health but I am doing that because I think they do an extremely good job in the licensing area. I think that the State Board of Nursing, I think the nurses in the State of Nebraska, I think patients in the State of Nebraska will benefit from the administrative expertise that the Board of Health has and that the Department of Health has in this particular area. I think they need the guidance and the assistance specifically of the bureau head, Rex Higley, who does an outstanding job in this area. All of the other health care professionals are under the Board of Health with a couple of exceptions. We have a