

April 1, 1986

LB 1251

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, Senator Nichol, do you want to take the E & R amendments, please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, I'd move we adopt the E & R amendments.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Those in favor of adopting the E & R amendments to LB 1251 say aye. Those opposed no. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have is offered by Senator Nichol. Senator Nichol's amendment is on page 1549 of the Journal.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Nichol, on your amendment, please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it isn't often that I come here asking for money and I realize that we have fiscal restraints this year, but there is one situation out in the west end of the state that I truly feel is deserving of a little money this year. It is a baccalaureate degree that will be offered, that should be offered, at Nebraska Western General Hospital. As a way of information the West Nebraska General Hospital is the largest employer in Scottsbluff County and it has currently in place a three-year nurse's degree which is called a diploma service which is a three-year diploma given to nurses after three years of study. What is suggested is a four-year study course as is usually done and is now done in Lincoln and Omaha and Kearney. Kearney is the nearest place which is approximately 300 miles from Scottsbluff and the Panhandle does serve the nurses in that area. This hospital is strongly supported by the community and undertook a building project adding to it recently to the tune of approximately \$12 million which was local money. I repeat, which was local money, and which is usually not done because other funds are available. But the baccalaureate program that would be in place, and we're talking about \$100,000 this year, is what I am suggesting and pursuing at this time. It is my understanding that diploma nurses are going by way of the boards and a baccalaureate degree will be required in the near future, don't know exactly how soon, but that is my understanding. So with that, I ask your support for the \$100,000 which is supported by the University of Nebraska and they have talked about this for two or three years, but because of fiscal restraints they have not actually done it. I understand that the University of Nebraska Medical School is supporting it and would like to do it

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