

who have no recourse anywhere, yet if this were done in, there still are nursing programs. There still is health care available even if it's not what people want, because I know of entire segments of the population in Omaha and some other cities where even though hospitals exist do not have access to them because they are asked when you come in, is your insurance going to pay for it or do you have cash?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Half a minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Doctors and dentists ask these questions too and if the answer is negative to both of those, you do not see the doctor or the dentist or get acceptance of admittance to the hospital. And if there are some of you who don't believe that, I can document it for you, but I'm sure some of you are well aware of it and it's spreading throughout the state. So either we are going to talk about the programs from the standpoint of their merit and keep those programs that are meritorious even if it means a tax increase, or we are going to look at them and forget the nature of the program and say, these dollars are to be cut, period. So...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time. You can finish your sentence, Senator Chambers. Okay, Senator Scofield, then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Well, I think I have had an adequate opportunity, perhaps, to present my opinion on this just in responding to Senator Chambers' comments. But let me just make a couple of points and I think I have made them before and that is, there is...this is a serious need. It's one example, I think, of us trying to recognize those needs and meet them and without denying the fact that the program will cost in the future and it may, in fact, require the Regents to look at the ways that they reallocate their money down the road. It seems to me that Senator Chambers makes some valid points about access to programs and yet I don't know that you can compare geographical access with some of the points he makes without taking anything away from his points. I know he wants to talk about the advocacy programs. We have left that opportunity out there. I would just as soon that this issue didn't get mixed up with that issue. Let's debate them one by one. And I am not going to disagree with the point that he makes about the importance of those programs. So, at this point, I simply want to say that there is a need for this program. There currently is no access to that kind of training in western Nebraska. I think one thing that surprised me, frankly, when I