

out there that is not served and is not going to be prepared to provide a bachelor degree of nursing program in the State of Nebraska. So to put it very simply, I am saying let's talk about moving one of those programs if it is your desire not to start a new program. Let's talk about moving one of those programs to the west. I realize that raises some turf issues, probably ruined the evening of most of you Lincoln Senators last night, but, nevertheless, I think it is time to talk about that. I think the issue comes down very simply to, can you justify two schools of nursing supported by the state that are 60 miles apart, when the rest of the state does not enjoy that kind of service? And so I am offering you this alternative and urging you to accept that. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Scofield. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members, I think you can probably guess my position on this proposal that isn't a very favorable one, but I also understand Senator Scofield's concerns. I want to start off immediately by saying that I think the Scottsbluff program is a good program and ought to be funded. We have looked in the Health Committee at nursing needs. We have looked at nursing education needs. Our conclusion is we are understaffed in terms of nursing in the state. Not just in western Nebraska, our nursing needs are across the state. We don't have enough nurses in Lincoln, Nebraska, as a matter of fact. That problem in nursing does require educational opportunities for people to become nurses and to achieve higher degrees in nursing so that we are able to meet the need that exists, in fact, by the year 2000 it is estimated we may have but half of the nurses that we need in the State of Nebraska. The problem is bad now, but it is likely to get worse. So we do have a need for the Scottsbluff program. Frankly, my position on this is to support both of these efforts, not to oppose both. I know other people didn't like the Scottsbluff program and didn't like the Lincoln program, wanted to eliminate both. Now we are seeing an effort to take away the one and transfer it. I think it would be a serious mistake. I don't think it helps the situation at all. I understand where Senator Scofield is coming from. I understand the needs of the western Nebraskans. I guess my position is a different one. I don't see any reason why we can't, in fact, try to make sure that those programs both exist because the need is there. It isn't as though we are educating people for nonexistent jobs or we are educating nurses when we don't need