

isn't enough then because they are having to file bankruptcy and close their business. So I ask you to support this, Senator Scofield's amendment. I think it is a good one and I thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I am in great sympathy with my dear friend, Senator Scofield, in western Nebraska, but I have to reiterate. I had quite a long discussion before I came down here with the Board of Regents, when they were proposing the budgets and the cuts of what they felt they could or could not accept, and they...my opinion is the Board of Regents were very willing to cooperate with us on these cuts of the University. I was somewhat even surprised at their testimony in front of the Appropriations Committee. I really have to oppose this. In the first place, I have an exception of Senator Wesely when he said that there probably are a shortage of nurses in the state, and one of the reasons is the fact of geographic location. That lady that has two small children in the school at Gering, Nebraska, she probably could continue her education at Scottsbluff, or the lady at Wood River, Nebraska could maybe continue her...geographically, and that is a point, but in no way at this time can I support starting another program that somewhat like our special ed programs and so on that was only a half a million dollars a couple of years down the road. But you know yourself that is going to be six or seven hundred thousand or a million dollars. We have a very fine School of Nursing. And, as the Board of Regents says, only just two years ago you were going to cut the Lincoln School of Nursing which is established very good. I know there is geographic location and there is travel time and so on. I have to take exception that we are short schools of nursing. We have plenty of schools for the people now that really want to attend those. Also, in the future demands, I have available for any senator that would ever like to have or would look at it, two years ago when Senator Smith and I co-chaired the committee on LPN and RN and the future in nursing and so on, we surveyed about 300 hospitals and nursing homes. Very definitely the trend is for increased training in LPNs and to the bachelor of science degree in RNs. There will be very little need for the diploma program. Some of the colleges, for example, here in Lincoln, one told me, Senator, you can't do away with the diploma program. They already changed those to an RN. The problem in so many schools on the bachelor science degrees is we simply do not have the trained RN instructors with the masters degrees and so on to even spread themselves that