

not that the program is not needed out there, it's too bad that we have one, have had it going maybe in both Omaha and Lincoln. But I suppose I am somewhat like Senator DeCamp is accused of, I have to get my instructions once in a while and I am probably a little guilty on this. I have been contacted by the Board of Regents on this very matter and I think that I should share this with the body. The first place is the Legislature cannot close the Lincoln School of Nursing. The second thing is the Legislature cannot tell the Regents what to do. The third thing is, if they want to pass a resolution for the college, the Regents know the need is there, that is not the point, it is the money that is being taken away from the rest of the University budget. If the Legislature feels fit that they want to go ahead and fund the Western Nebraska college, do it, but be awfully sure that the money is there and is going to be there to do it. Do not expect to take it from any of the other University funds because that simply will not be possible to do. I am just passing this on to you before we get ourselves in so deep to...in maybe passing something or doing something that we will regret down the line. Now, this is another suggestion. I will just mention the St. Francis School of Nursing. It was not feasible any longer. Any hospital that has a nursing program in it, their fees are considerably higher and I can't...I wanted to put my finger right on that. I can tell you three or four that have found that they no longer could support a school of nursing. So with the economy as it is in western Nebraska, we have to ask, how much longer can they do it? Now, they did suggest that if the economy should turn around and the Legislature and the state could find extra finances, and so on, down the road, that the people of Scottsbluff donate to the college...

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: ...keep the college going and then if the economy turns around, then let the state fund it or the University take it over. But, otherwise, that college will probably go as the same route as St. Francis and other colleges. So I am just more or less relaying that information to you before we kind of get strayed away or doing something that we cannot change.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have to stand to say that I don't like the message that we keep giving to the