beds that cost. The cost per bed on this construction project is about $28,600. Each additional bed we are going to be constructing in this facility is going to cost $28,600 and we can't afford to keep building nursing home facilities that we don't need. The other point I want to make besides the fact that we are overbedded in the first place is that we ought to consider this Nichol amendment in the context of another bill that is on General File that would build a nursing home in the Omaha area. The money that would be taken for the Scottsbluff home would be lost then to any other potential veteran's home in any other part of the state. Now I don't want to get into an eastern Nebraska versus a western Nebraska fight. As far as I am concerned neither home should be built and I will oppose that other bill to build the nursing home for veterans in the Omaha area because we don't need it anymore there than we do in Scottsbluff but the question really comes down to this. If we want to provide for veterans of this state the best nursing care, service and facility and programs is that the best method to build a new nursing home or to help them get placed in nursing homes throughout the state that already exist and I will submit to you that we are going to save money to the state and to the veterans themselves if we would, instead of building this new home would instead help them be placed in those beds that are sitting empty right now, costing us all Medicaid and other funds which are being wasted. So I ask you to please carefully consider this amendment and my motion to strike it and the fact that we are talking about a large amount of money that could be better spent, more effectively spent. I will close with that. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fitzgerald and then Senator Nichol. Senator Fitzgerald, do you wish the floor?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Speaker, I stand up to oppose his amendment. A veteran's home is not a nursing home. I remember when I went into service we had the flags and everybody waved. He is young, I mean he don't know what a veteran went through and I mean I object to this entirely. Just because the nursing home people build facilities they cannot use, we are not going to put a veteran in a nursing home. A veteran is here and a veteran has got dignity. They have served their country. Now they are getting up here in years. Let's put them in a home where they deserve. Let's not say you are on welfare. Let's go over here. Let's put these people where they are supposed to be and give them