

distinguish a difference between nursing home services for welfare, for Medicaid, for Medicare, for private use. You don't distinguish that from the veterans services that is put out by the Department of Institutions and this is where your ignorance starts. You've got to make a difference in these veterans services beds and those that are served by the private sector and those that are served by welfare, et cetera, those that are served as extensions of hospitals. They are elephants and donkeys. What we are talking about here, Senator Wesely, is the Department of Institutions completing its project in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, for veterans and veterans' use only with monies that belongs to the Department of Institutions, Veterans' Services, and that is all. It has nothing to do with the excellent speech of misinformation that you put on the floor of the Legislature.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator George, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR GEORGE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. I do intend to support Senator Wesely's amendment. I am not arguing on the same basis. I am not arguing against the various points that were brought up by Senator Fitzgerald, Senator Nichol, Senator Kelly and I certainly don't want to divert the \$500,000 for any other purpose but you all know very well that we are in the process of building a new veterans home for eastern Nebraska. Now that \$500,000 does not have a price tag on that says Scottsbluff, Nebraska. That same money is needed for building that new home that I believe we are committed to build. Once we have built that home our guess might be that about a hundred beds may be empty in Grand Island and Norfolk because those veterans from the Omaha area will then have a home in the Omaha area and they will not need to go out to Grand Island and to Norfolk. Once that home is built we may find out that we are overbuilding the same way as...we have to address that issue with hospitals in LB 172. So why don't we go ahead first and meet the demand which we have discussed for at least the last two years in the Veterans' Committee and commit ourselves to building that home in eastern Nebraska and we need that money for that purpose and then if you can find out that in spite of the draining of the homes in Grand Island and Norfolk we still need additional bed facilities in Scottsbluff, I will most certainly help Senator Nichol and support him to expand a facility if that is necessary. There is no way you can tell at this point, since we haven't built a facility yet in Douglas County, that the additional 50 beds will be necessary. My guess is that we will have too many in central Nebraska