

May 2, 1979

LB 594

and probably also towards western Nebraska. I don't know and I would like to see those data before we make up our minds of how many people of western Nebraska are also in Grand Island right now. There are a lot of people. There are a lot of veterans from eastern Nebraska in Grand Island and they don't want to be there. They want to go back to Douglas County. We should build that facility first. We do need that money for that facility and if that proves then that we need a larger expanded facility in Scottsbluff, Senator Nichol would certainly get my vote. All I am saying is let's have a one year moratorium. Let's find out what the facts are. Let's find out what kind of situation we will have once eastern Nebraska has a new home and then go from there in some reasonable planning. This is I think the wrong time to expand Scottsbluff where we still don't know what the distribution will be after we have built a new facility in Douglas County. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon, then Senator Hefner, then Senator Newell, Senator Koch, Senator DeCamp. Senator Simon.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Call the previous question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The debate has ceased and the Chair recognizes Senator Wesely for purposes of closing on his amendment to LB 594.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I will be very quick in closing. I have raised the issue because I am very concerned about the overbedding problem we have in the state for nursing homes. I also believe that there are a number of concerns beyond that that we have to address. Number one, we have a half a million dollars that could be used to build this facility in Scottsbluff. It could be used as Senator George has suggested to build a facility in Douglas County. It could also be used to meet operating expenses of current nursing homes that have been constructed for veterans. There are ways to spend that money I believe that are more effective and more efficient and more frugal than the proposal that Senator Nichol has attached to LB 594. I also submit to you that if we really do care about the veterans in this