

of the private care needs but for veterans in particular there was a study done by the health department, which not all members of the legislature particularly but which does a good job I believe. They did a study at the request of the Legislature in November of 1978 on the study of needs for additional nursing home services for veterans. The conclusion of that study basically is that additional nursing home facilities was not the best answer, that in fact, taking care of veterans in private care facilities was the better alternative, the cheaper alternative, and the superior alternative. That is the alternative that I offer you today, that we have an over bedding problem even in 1995 when we are talking about the peak of veterans who will need care, perhaps in nursing homes, perhaps elsewhere will still be over bedded. There will still be an ability to take care of their needs in the private facility. What amazes me is that today the private nursing home associations, I believe, at least in talking with some of the representatives, are not here fighting this bill because it is a drain from their resources, it is a drain that is going to cost taxpayers more in reimbursement costs. They are not even fighting it. We all I think pretty well know why that is, but first off I challenge them to support their own interests and the interests of all individuals of the state who support the medicaid payments. First off of one million...one dollar a year lease, as I say is just a gift horse. We need to look in the mouth, because it is more than that. First off there has been a walk through study done by the Department of Institutions, I mentioned that showed that essentially we are talking about \$670,000 that would be pretty well in the very near future needed to renovate this facility to bring it up to minimum standards, \$670,000 and that doesn't include the boiler house that I was just mentioning. If we do include in this a lease arrangement would perhaps cost \$250,000 for one new boiler at some time in the future. So \$670,000 is not one dollar a year, it is a lot of money. When we start talking about that sort of renovation cost you have to keep in mind that we have already peaked in the number of nursing home beds that the Veterans Administration will provide federal funding for renovation, capital construction or what have you. We can have 500 such beds in Nebraska it is based upon population, we can 500 of these beds. We already have 468, we have got 50 more coming on line with the Scottsbluff addition which we passed last year and which I opposed last year so with that Scottsbluff addition we are already over the maximum that we can receive any benefits from the federal government on. So we are talking about spending a substantial amount of money. We are talking about federal assistance but it is not going to be there. We are already, from figures that I have got, have already more nursing home beds for veterans in this state than any other state. As I