

said we have already reached the limit now. There is a bill by Representative Cavanaugh that would increase that limit for Nebraska and other states but the indications from his office are that that bill is not going to get anywhere because Nebraska is one of the few states that has bumped up against it. The additional points that I have to raise are essentially this. The questions about need, the questions about costs, the questions about benefit to the state can be best addressed, and this is the amendment and that is what I am referring to now, deals with. The amendment would have that the Veterans Home established in Douglas County that we are talking about would have to go through a certificate of need process, would have to be assessed for the need involved and the benefits involved and if it goes through that process and is approved, then I would not have any problem with it. If, in fact, that it can be found and I don't believe this would happen but if they can find that we do need these additional veterans nursing home beds then it seems to me that perhaps that is the action to take. I'm not set in my ways by any means. I am saying that we need to raise the issue and be concerned about what the implications are here. So if we go through this process and as it was established last year, it is a good process and we find that the need is there then we can take the next step and take out the lease arrangement but I don't think now at this time it is wise to make a deal with Douglas County and to take the next step that we are talking about. In fact, I personally think this is a boondoggle, a boondoggle that a lot of people would like to see happen...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: ...and that people were very concerned about but a boondoggle nevertheless and I think it is going to be the taxpayers of Nebraska that are going to be the losers in this arrangement and the veterans, and we are all concerned about the veterans, are not going to be the winners. They have adequate and good care in their private nursing facilities. They will not receive, I think, better care through this facility but the cost will be greater and so I ask your careful consideration of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Fitzgerald.

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Chairman and members, Senator Wesely in all his wisdom made a statement here just a