

leaps to the defense of the existing institution. Now Senator Eret, in bringing this bill to the body and collecting 20 co-sponsors to this bill, has done an effective job. I don't mean to question the quality of the institution, or the quality of the care given young women at Geneva. As a matter of fact, as a member of the Appropriations Committee years ago I visited Geneva. I spent a day there with Senator Warner and a few others. I was very impressed with the quality of that institution. I'm sure that the people that operate Geneva today, if their funds and if their resources and their personal commitment were transferred to the Kearney institution, that institution could run just as well and in the end we would save money. We wouldn't save a whole lot of money in the overall picture. It may be only half a million dollars a year, maybe only a million dollars a year, but that is a lot. That, of course, is a lot. I think that when a Chief Executive Officer, like Governor Kerrey, has the courage to risk alienation of a part of the state by attempting to shut down an institution in order to affect economies generally for the good of taxpayers, for the good of state government in Nebraska generally, we ought to support that effort. We shouldn't have the kind of knee-jerk response, well, we really can't let any institution be shut down. So I will be one of the one or two dissenting votes to this bill. Again, I don't have any illusions that the bill is in any real danger. But I think we make a mistake. I think...and as I learned on the Appropriations Committee and as all of you know something good can be said about any expenditure or about any proposed expenditure. If we funded everything good in this state, if we funded every good idea brought to us in the Legislature, our budget would be 100 times greater than it is now. But we have to be tough-minded about these things, we have to bite the bullet. If the Chief Executive Officer of this state, after studying the issue carefully, thinks an institution should be closed, I'm inclined to support that, even if it is a good institution, even if it is a well-functioning institution because I know that the same excellences can be accomplished elsewhere. So, for those reasons, Mr. President, I intend to oppose this bill and would urge others of you to do the same. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck, then Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I was one of those who signed on to the bill because I felt that