

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in opposition to the motion to bracket at this time. I'll tell you why. The bill has had a public hearing. I recognize the concern of some persons right now about the needs of the veteran in various areas of the state. I want to call your attention to the fact that a year ago I had a bill that offered a home for veterans in Eastern Nebraska, areas that were highly accessible. There were many people who thought it was unnecessary, that there wasn't any need for veterans homes in that area at that time. It is apparent that there is a need for additional beds in the Scottsbluff area. I think we ought to proceed with Senator Rasmussen's bill. If, in fact, we do need additional facilities in Eastern Nebraska, and I understand there are some legitimate concerns that we do, that those needs can be met also. I don't know that it's going to serve any particular purpose to delay the advancement of this bill at this time. I think the two issues can be treated separately. I think that all of us recognize the tug of war that's taking place here. I think we recognize there are some legitimate responsibilities of this body toward western Nebraska. But when you get into the give and take that might occur, I think it's going to be very evident to all of us that some veterans from Western Nebraska are going to be housed in an area far from their home. I don't think that we want to do that. I think the issue has been addressed here responsibly. I recognize the Budget Committee has to look at it, and they should. I think that we should not abdicate our responsibility to that part of Nebraska which sometimes perhaps is forgotten in issues like this. I would be forced to speak against the motion to bracket.

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy, do you wish to speak on the bracketing issue itself, and not the substance of the bill?

SENATOR MURPHY: I don't know that they can be separated, Mr. President. I'll let you rule me out of order, if they are. I would call attention to the fiscal note that accompanies this bill which rather specifically states that this transfer of funds in no way negates the necessity for the Appropriations Committee to subsequently appropriate these funds. I think we're running in panic at something that isn't happening at all in the context of this bill. The appropriation, before it can be made, must come before the Appropriations Committee under a specific program, as set forth by the fiscal analyst. I think we're stopping a train that hasn't left the station yet. I realize that there are those who think there are only two places to build state buildings in this country, and that is in Lincoln and Omaha. I think the Scottsbluff area probably has a few veterans there. Before we delay this I suggest we read, thoroughly, the fiscal note that accompanies it. We are not appropriating this money. We are transferring money to a fund that subsequently, according to the analyst, must be appropriated by the Appropriations Committee at which time it must be preceded by the formal planning statement. I would oppose bracketing this motion. I think we're delaying something that isn't happening.

PRESIDENT: Senator Shirley Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there are two points I would like to lift up for your consideration. One is that we are no longer considering a transfer of dollars to the veterans building fund. Instead, since you adopted the motion, we are speaking to only construction at Scottsbluff. If you'll read your pink sheet on