

a long, long waiting list. Therefore, they are forced to go into a private nursing home. In the nursing home the Douglas County Welfare or/and the state government then come into play because they have to fund if they are low income and according to the figures I have Douglas County alone on their welfare cost would be part of the state's cost too, would save \$213,000 just by the patients that we have now in skilled nursing homes. The State of Nebraska has in the past, properly cared for all of its veterans by providing a facility which will provide dignity and respect to the declining years of the lives of the veterans. The present Nebraska Veterans Home our very excellent example to be followed by other states and moreover, one in the eastern part of the State of Nebraska. There is no doubt in any of our minds, I am sure, that 55% of the total veteran population of the State of Nebraska resides within a fifty to sixty mile radius of Omaha. Due to the distance to the nearest Nebraska Veterans Home facility, many of the Omaha veterans who need veterans home care nursing facilities must travel to Grand Island. It is very difficult for families and children of the veterans because when they are here in Omaha of course at the VA Hospital or in Lincoln, they can see and visit with them every day. By going to Grand Island it is very difficult. There is a constant flow of veterans who come to the Center in Omaha for medical care due to poor living conditions found in their present facilities in Omaha. Over the past year we would estimate that over 300 different veterans have come to Omaha via the Medical Center seeking care which could easily be provided in a state veterans home. There is a three month waiting list at Nebraska Veterans Homes. In many cases the veterans either will not desire to wait for that period to be entered into a veterans home or will not desire to leave the Omaha area. When the veteran is finally to the point medically where he must be placed in a home, his condition is in many cases to the point where he can no longer be rehabilitated.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labedz, we have about a minute on the opening time.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. As I said on our visit to Grand Island I was very pleased, I was very amazed in talking to many of the veterans there, they told me the length of time that they had to wait before they got into Grand Island. We have over a hundred people waiting now in the Omaha or Douglas County area that are waiting to get into the building. I just want to say one or two words about the building we are now being offered, the Douglas County Annex. Just by looking at it and I am no