

veterans close to their families to be able to have their families come and see them and I really support this concept to have the facility there in Omaha for the veterans.

PRESIDENT: Amendment on the desk. Read the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely moves to amend the Fitzgerald amendment by striking Section 2 of that amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, striking Section 2, in speaking with Senator Fitzgerald on this point, would essentially cut out from the amendment and from the lease agreement what we believe to be the boiler house of the Douglas County Hospital complex. That is what we believe at this point. There is some question. Senator Fitzgerald felt that that was Section (b) of a plat is in Section 2 of this amendment and that is the problem area that we are concerned about. Essentially the boiler house is going to be a white elephant is my feeling. There is a number of problems with it. It is fifty years old and there is some concern that, and the condition it is in, it may cost upwards of \$250,000 to replace a boiler at some place in the future. It is not certain whether that is necessary or not at this time but it is felt there ought to be a consultant hired to look at that to see if there is a need to replace it. Now we don't know that but it looks like there is a problem. Let me read to you from the DPI, Department of Public Institutions, walk through assessment, Physical Plant Assessment is what the title of the report is, had looked at the boiler house and the other aspects of the facility. It said, "A better solution to purchasing the boiler house would be to have the Douglas County keep the boiler house as their property and let the state purchase services from the county. This would eliminate the need for the state to staff the boiler plant operation. The boiler plant will still be required to furnish services to the other Douglas County facilities including emergency radio center, the Douglas County Highway Maintenance Shop and the Surveyors Office Building." It does say, however, while the boilers are old I don't feel they are necessarily in need of immediate replacement but it does call for a consultant to look into that more and to see whether that action is needed. So basically if we purchase the boiler house, we will be in a position then to (1) possibly have to replace the boiler at a high cost or (2) at least maintaining the boiler house and then providing services to Douglas County facilities as well as our own Vet Home and so the feeling is that the state would be subsidizing