

the cutbacks take place and we have not yet fully worked out a mechanism for the orderly processing of various requests by public organizations as well as private organizations who do want us to provide some relief from the federal cutbacks, and it seems to me that if we tackle this on a piecemeal basis that we act unwisely and prematurely. Now it may well be in the last analysis that what Senator Kahle is attempting is a wise measure, though for reasons I am going to enunciate, I don't think that it is but I think it would be unwise at this time for us to take this one measure, to discuss it, and to use it to deal with one federal cutback problem. I think we need to put into place the mechanism to deal with the totality of federal losses. Now I don't think this particular measure is a terribly wise measure. The reason I don't think it is a wise measure is because of what it does to the state in relationship to what is truly a local function. The community mental health boards are mental health boards appointed by county commissioners pursuant to interlocal governmental agreements. Counties enter into interlocal governmental agreements and they establish the relationship of county to county and they also appoint those mental health boards. Under this particular measure the State of Nebraska will be picking up a greater and greater and greater share of the cost of funding what truly is a local mental health effort. While I am totally in sympathy with local mental health efforts, it strikes me that if we allow local control but have a substantial majority of the funds coming from the state that we, in effect, have improperly delegated too much control over what are state funds. Now the current state mix does not...the current state mix still funds the bulk of the local mental health effort, but under this particular measure, such a large chunk of the local mental health effort will be funded by the state, it really does begin to raise a serious question as to whether we should continue to allow local control and local authority over the community health effort. So I think it would be unwise for us to raise the bill. It is unwise because this is too early a look at a federal bailout. It is also unwise because I do think we begin to askew the balance of local control in relationship to what would be state funds.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would rise to oppose raising the bill at this time as well, generally for the reasons that others have given, but in addition, I think we need to be looking at and there is legislation pending, perhaps more than one bill, which will deal with at least