

down and find it about 9th and P Street in the old Federal Building. They have been in existence in the State of Nebraska for ten years and a Commission on Aging which has been instituting programs and services and spending something like \$8 to \$10 million in federal dollars has been in existence for ten years. Now when we had the interim hearings we discovered, yes, this structure is in existence but it is in existence only because the federal government has mandated and provided funds. A State Commission on Aging has assumed powers broader than the initial statute that basically created an advisory commission. Area agencies were created with inter-local agreements and we have an entity, an institution, service agency spending \$8 to \$12 million, some of that local, a little of that state, a lot of it federal in the State of Nebraska with no statutory limitations whatsoever. It grew up with the money. This Legislature never instituted anything to control it, to define responsibilities, to require plans, to require information. So we felt, the interim study committee whose sponsors are on this bill, felt that maybe it was time that something that we have allowed to be created be written into law and that some limitations be put on that structure. Now let me talk about what happens if you don't have those limitations. The State Commission on Aging which is going to be replaced with the Department of Aging, let me stress we are not creating a new entity. We are replacing one executive department with another. Let me say that again. We are replacing one executive department with another. The Commission on Aging tried a few weeks ago to limit the allocation of federal funds to the area agencies. I'm sure you may have seen some press on that and the Attorney General ruled that they had no power to do that. The money had to flow through that Commission, no controls. Why? Because we never established in statute any powers for a Department on Aging or a Commission on Aging. It is that type of thing that is going on and when Senator Beutler says this bill expands things and has no limits, I would strongly disagree. It is the current system that has no limits. It is the current \$12 million program that has no control from the state. We have a Commission that cannot control the funds. We have a Commission that only power derives from federal act, that we have not given any sort of state power and state responsibility. I can see that if Senator Beutler did not have the information, did not understand that already we have adopted a philosophy of services for the elderly nationally, at the state level and locally, that we already have a state Aging Executive Office, a Commission and we are going to replace that in this bill due to Senator Warner's amendment with a Department and a code agency. We already have a state executive entity. We have a federal policy and we have local governments in