

move forward on it. We held back on it a couple years ago. We shouldn't hold back on it any longer. We have a serious problem out there, some serious concerns that have yet to be addressed and this is the bill to do it. So let's work toward answering the problems and not creating a greater problem by just dropping the issue and not going forward.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Owen Elmer, please, then Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm listening to the debate with considerable interest this morning and I have mixed emotions. We have bureaucracies in abundance and people out there have a tendency to look at a new bureaucracy as salaried people being paid by their taxes that really is not too necessary. We have been talking about rural health concerns. I would like to know really what specific things that this bill would do to help some of those concerns. I can see a state office being set up in Scottsbluff or North Platte and still would require someone to drive perhaps 100 and 150 miles. If they're not able to afford their local health care, they can little afford to drive to get it for a 100 and 150 miles. It seems that this money might be better directed to those local communities for these kinds of things through their hospitals or doctors that are already there. Maybe some of those questions could be answered but I don't think I want to kill it but I really don't think I want to advance it either. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hartnett, then Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President and members of the body, I guess I haven't talked about this bill and I usually leave the health issues up to the experts, Senator Wesely and Senator Lynch, but maybe Senator Wesely can answer the question for me but I maybe will ask him or Senator Lynch because with the duplication of services and a couple of weeks ago, I think it was right after the 1st of January, I was up in...my sister-in-law up in Senator Conway's area was elected to the county commissioners and I went up for the swearing in and it happened to be the day of, you know, where kids are getting shots and so what you're saying is that that still will be a function of the counties that this will not take over and so forth. Is that true?