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SENATOR RAIKES: ...items that are being handled this way? Or would it be fair to say that roughly in this biennium we're allocating \$6.5 million for new construction if you count the two that are listed on page 71 and the Fitzgerald Home?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's it, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. All right. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Raikes. The Chair would recognize Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'd like to have a little discussion with Senator Preister, if I could, please.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Senator Preister, would you respond?

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, I would.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Preister, in listening to your discussion, I understand that you're on that committee and you're looking for a location for the new Veterans Hospital. Is that right?

SENATOR PREISTER: A part of what the task force did was to do a site assessment to find an area of approximately 20 acres of land, minimum 15 acres, close to the VA Hospital, that's correct.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. Have you been successful in finding a location that's suitable?

SENATOR PREISTER: We narrowed it down to essentially three sites. One of those sites had some environmental contamination that could have posed an expense that would have been beyond what we may have wanted to do, so we didn't look as seriously at that site. Then we had two additional sites. Either or neither of those sites may even be available at the time we finally