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FLOOR DEBATE

April 29, 2003      LB 406

would be advantageous to building it there. Is there any reasons why that couldn't be attained by building a new facility on...at that present location?

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator Janssen, that was one of the considerations. We looked at virtually everything we could possibly look at in terms of siting. There are some difficulties in doing that. There is land there, that is true, and it could be configured on that land. That, if we're going to put a facility someplace, though, we're going to have staff time that's a factor in that, transportation costs that's a factor in building. And if we're still shuttling veterans back and forth from that far west down to the Veterans Hospital on a regular basis, you have to factor in the additional state cost for transportation, for staff, and you have to look at the safety of the veterans. And when you need quick medical attention, you've got a lot of distance and, depending on the time of day and the traffic conditions, an amount of time that's also a factor in getting them to the hospital. So the land could be available if we negotiated a contract with the county to do that, but we would have to start that process all over. Douglas County has been very good to work with and very cooperative, so that was an option, but that site is not on a bus route. Again, we have staffing problems at the existing site and that's, those staffing problems, that issue would not be addressed by building there.

SENATOR JANSSEN: It seems to me as the city grows west, that's south and west, and north is the only way they can go, it seems to me that within the next 25 or 30 years that would probably be the center of Omaha anyway. I can't remember exactly what street...

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...that is on, but if we looked down the road, look into the future, I...and I have always been of the opinion that that would be a very good location for it and we don't know how long that Veterans Hospital is going to be in that location. It could be moving west also. So we have to...we have to try to look at every resource we can and, in my opinion, that still is