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FLOOR DEBATE

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Cemetery, and what I'd propose in this bill is to have another cemetery in eastern Nebraska. The veterans administration, the federal veterans administration, would like to have a veterans cemetery available for veterans within a 75-mile circle, and so that's what the bill...no one testified against the bill and there were two people that were in the neutral. And what we tried to do, and I think Senator Schimek has the committee amendment, to take their suggestions and put it into the committee amendment. And I support the committee amendments and advancement of the bill. So it's simply to allow eastern Nebraska to have a veterans cemetery, Mr. Chairman. I will...done.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. There are committee amendments, as stated by the Clerk. Chairperson Schimek, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments offered by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee did hear this bill on February 12. And, actually, it's an issue that we've been looking at for some time. We did advance the bill with a 7 to 1 vote, 1 person being absent, and I have to congratulate Senator Hartnett for working so hard on this issue and trying to find some way to appease different concerns along the way. I think he's done a good job. And this is a revenue-neutral bill now, once the committee amendment is adopted. And this is what it does. The committee amendment provides for, in addition to state veteran cemetery system facilities in Box Butte and Hall County, a state veteran cemetery in Sarpy County. And, incidentally, the committee amendment does become the bill. Three separate funds are created to finance the state veteran cemetery system. All funds received for the construction of the cemetery system will be remitted to the Veteran Cemetery Construction Fund. After the completion of the three facilities comprising the state veteran cemetery system, the construction fund will be terminated and the remaining funds will be transferred to the Nebraska Veteran Cemetery Endowment Fund, which is created under the amendment. The Nebraska Veteran Cemetery System Endowment Fund will consist