

January 14, 1976

SENATOR CLARK: Yes.

PRESIDENT: So that we can handle this as expeditiously as possible, further discussion should be on Senator Clark's amendment. Senator Syas, do you wish to be heard on Senator Clark's amendment? Senator Frank Lewis, do you wish to be heard on it? Does anyone wish to be heard on Senator Clark's amendment? The question is the adoption of Senator Clark's amendment to the resolution which is to add the words "privately financed" to the last resolve. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays.

PRESIDENT: The amendment carries. Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Senators, I probably view this a little bit differently. I read the Doyle amendment. I get the impression that if we do not do anything in this Legislature that we have, by silence, approved it. I hate to be put in a position of approving something by silence. Fact is I have to compliment, I think, Senator Kelly for introducing the resolution because this will put it to the Legislature whether we like it or not. I agree that it shouldn't be here. It looks to me like the State Engineer has got the Legislature in a squeeze play. He's forced us to do something by a simple letter. I have to compliment him that it was pretty good quarterbacking on his part.

I think we have to, due to the Doyle letter, take a stand today on this one way or the other. Therefore I suppose if you vote for it you're approving ... the Engineer accepts it because if you don't take any action this Legislature is not going to be able to escape the fact. As I say in repetition that Mr. Doyle said he assumes that we approve it if we do nothing.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I think Senator Syas pointed out the situation. What you're being asked today to do is make an art critique. I know all of you're interested. I'm sure most could make that kind of critique. Senator Syas, if it was a portrait of a pheasant or a sculpture of a pheasant, I know he could identify and relate to that. Senator Murphy, if it was a sculpture of a bank, would be able to pick that up right quickly. Senator Cavanaugh, if it was a portrait of an orator, he could do that. Senator Maresh, if it was a 'jaternice', he could pick that up. The point is I think that most of us are in a position, now, of trying to make a criteria in terms of art.

If we adopt the resolution I think it's going to be an insult to the art council that has pursued this. I think it has become a volatile political football in terms of trying to do something for the state. I think you'd be hard pressed ... and I'd like to talk to some people privately that have looked at the designs and the sculptures and so forth, other than the Committee. I would bet it would be very few.