

during this session on legislative bills. I heard so many members of our body comment that they have found hearing after hearing to be overrun, so to speak, by members of the public. We have probably had the most remarkable turnout of people from the public on legislative bills this year than in any of the years that I have been here, and I think that is true for a lot of the other senators as well. It is our opinion, on the Executive Board, that the public turnout is a good thing, that we should encourage it, and we should provide decent and adequate space. The only way we can get it done though is through a little capital construction increase and at this time I would recommend the amendment to get the job done.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, one of the important reasons for putting this into the planning stage is that nothing can be done about the remodelling until after we adjourn next year. Next year is the short legislative session and that would allow time for the remodelling process to take place while we are absent, or primarily absent, between sessions. With it being started promptly in April when we adjourn in 1984, sufficient dollars need to be there so they can start the major project of the utility update. As you have been aware, those of you who have sat in hearing rooms in the south corridor, the ventilating system is not now what it needs to be. This will update the utilities, this will provide proper seating for the members of the public who have been attending the public hearings in great numbers. It seems most appropriate to me that we have just celebrated the 50th anniversary of our state capitol for us to be moving in the direction of providing more facilities for the public to enjoy this beautiful building while they are attending to business in our state capitol. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, reluctantly I rise to oppose the amendment. As many of you know we had this money in the budget last year and it was deleted because of the fiscal problems of the state. I certainly concur with Senator Johnson that new and better hearing rooms are necessary and we were all set to start that process last interim period. However, because of the very real problems that the state had this body decided on this floor to delete that money from the budget, it was deleted and at this point I guess I don't see the state being in much better fiscal shape than it was last year so I guess I would suggest while the remodelling is necessary, that it perhaps should wait one more year.