

April 12, 1994

LB 961
LR 151

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...but I really think that's a huge problem. I have another amendment that may help some of that. With that, beware. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, I thought a minute regarding 309; 309 was a group that was put together quite a few years ago by people that were around and much smarter than we were. They looked toward the future and decided there should be somebody in charge and responsible for making sure that the buildings we do build, in fact, are maintained and kept up so that we can, in fact, save even more money than just maintaining a building that's unmaintained. It was never funded. It never really has been funded. What makes it worse is that all of the agencies, not just one or two, but all of the agencies have no factor in the space they use in this state for depreciation. Every agency, for every square inch of space they have, should be charging in their budget at least 2 percent for depreciation factor. That money is what should be used to maintain the buildings. I'm not blaming the university or any other agency because they haven't put aside the money because they assumed that the 309 committee would keep up with it. But also those people who have huge budgets for lobbying must know because they can count that the Legislature never funded the 309 committee. This summer we're going to have what's called a continuation of the LR 151 study and, hopefully, we'll look at this and come in...come in with some recommendations, one of which will be we stop building buildings. Stop building buildings until we have in place a policy in that agency where, over a five-year period, every bit of their deferred maintenance is funded. That makes sense to me. It's not unreasonable. The Beadle Building, for example, I think has some money in it, \$36 million or \$32 million building at the university, and I'm not quite sure if they really have a depreciation factor for this brand new building. It's the building with all the chimneys out there on...by the campus. But this is scandalous. This is a scandalous circumstance for us, so it puts me in a terrible bind since I'm from the Omaha area and we talk about a package that's going to take some money that we're going to use for this deferred maintenance and use it for the auditorium, or for a complex, as I understand it, which is a good idea. I'm not sure what I'm going to do. But I also want to share this with you. It doesn't make any difference if we give the fertilizer tax back or we exempt livestock and that thing the Revenue Committee