

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 16, 1999 LB 297

1934, some of the planting...or planting was accomplished by a consortium of Nebraska nursery people and the only portion of that original design that wasn't constructed at that time was the fountain in each of the four courtyards. Now I have given you some materials which I'd like to call to your attention, and it starts with a history of this landscaping, and then talks about the Capitol Commission and so forth. But if you'll go to the blueprint at the back of the handout, you will notice that there is a landscaping plan both for the exterior of the capitol and a landscaping plan for those interior courtyards. And in...and there is also a picture of the envisioned fountains. One of the things that I discovered while I was working on this project is that the landscape architect planned that this outer portion of the capitol would have subtle landscaping, that it would enhance the outside of the capitol, which is somewhat subtle in itself. The interior courtyards were to be more colorful in keeping with the interior of our capitol with all the mosaics and so forth. In thinking about this plan and in thinking about the restoration project that is going to be occurring over the next ten years, it seems to me that we ought to be making plans to have some landscaping done at the same time as we do our restoration. And, of course, a lot of landscaping can't take place while all the structures are up around the capitol. But the plans should be laid. So what this bill does is it directs the Capitol Commission to establish policy for a master landscape plan and for the State Capitol and for property within the Nebraska State Capitol Environs District. At least 75 percent of our...I think that's 70 percent, actually, of the landscaping plan is to be finished by the completion of the capitol masonry restoration project and it is to be coordinated with the project. And then the bill, as originally written, actually asks that DAS start contracting for these fountains and so forth. The bill asks that the Capitol Commission meet at least twice a year through the year 2010, and annually thereafter, and that the commission shall meet at least annually with the Nebraska Environs...State Capitol Environs Commission. I should explain to you that during the course of looking at this Capitol Commission, I discovered that it hadn't met since the days of Governor Thone, and it seemed to me that we either ought to get rid of it or we ought to see that it is doing the job that I think was once envisioned. So that's what this bill does, and it...the Nebraska State Capitol Environs