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March 19, 2004      LB 993, 1021, 1092, 1150

speak to I guess at the proper time.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wehrbein, as Chair of the Appropriations Committee offers committee amendments, AM2921. (Legislative Journal page 1053.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Wehrbein, to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This is going to include LB 1021 and LB 993 and LB 1150 into this LB 1092. And, first of all, this LB 1021, which is part of this amendment, first of all will broaden the purposes for which the university and state college depreciation funds may be expended, on expenditures for renovation work as defined in Sections 4 and 6. Currently, expenditure of the depreciation funds is limited to renewal work as defined in the Deferred Building Renewal Act. So this broadens it to use...that they can do some renovation. It also provides provisions under the 309 Task Force priority classification system for renewal projects. The change facilitates allocation of depreciation funds for renovation work but does not preclude adherence to the prioritization system. That means we can use it for...you can adjust the priority to...somewhat to allow for renovation. It was felt that it was appropriate to broaden the use of these funds to renovations, particularly in these times. Those funds have increased there and it isn't always necessary to go into renewal work but renovation would be an appropriate use of those funds it is felt and this allows that expansion of that use. And LB 993 is also in this, and that is the Section 8 and 9 of AM2921. Section 8 requires State Building Division to report annually to the Appropriations Committee and the Committee on Building Maintenance regarding property leased by the state and the availability of state-owned property to meet state agency space needs. Section 9 eliminates requirement that the Committee on Building Maintenance provides certification with respect to availability of state-owned space as that space availability relates to state agency proposals to rent space. What this simply says that in...for the improved or efficiency improvement