

in this particular network. This appropriation is not adding additional equipment. This appropriation is geared to take care of that equipment that is wearing out. Now if we don't maintain it, and if we don't keep it up, it is going to be just like this Capitol building, and I have heard Senator Schmit time and time again get on this floor and say here we have got this asset, here we have got this fantastic structure, here we have got this beautiful building and we are not keeping it up. I think that Senator Schmit knows just as he knows in the educational television network that it costs some money to maintain it. You can't use something forever and not replace it and not keep it current. That is essentially what this particular appropriation is. Now the fiscal staff called Channel 10, called several commercial television networks in the State of Nebraska and asked them about a replacement schedule for equipment and this is very much in line with those commercial channels. This is not overly ambitious in comparison with other commercial channels in the State of Nebraska. We checked this out. I didn't know anything about the television business, I didn't know if this was an accelerated replacement, normal replacement or a slow replacement. The expertise of the commercial networks who are in this for the buck, who are in there for profit, and rightfully so, said that this is a legitimate, reasonable, proper, course of action as far as replacing this valuable equipment is concerned. So with those facts before us, I don't think that we have any alternative. Now if we want to decide to close the building up and you know that may be all right, too, that is another decision, then I think that we should be debating that specific issue. But, if we are in the business and we are going to stay in the business we are going to have to properly and prudently maintain our investment and that is what this particular appropriation does. In fact, it is a year late in starting. They pushed real hard to start last year and it is very difficult to put them off another year. But with limited dollars it gets to be a matter of prioritization. But as a matter of fact putting it off that one year probably cost us. That probably was not the prudent decision.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would certainly like to support Senator Schmit on this. We haven't even touched this budget. No one has reduced it and they certainly won't let you increase any place. I just think that it is terrible that we get that much money going across and the budget committee is supposed to be so almighty that they can set a budget that never has to be changed one little bit. I just don't think that it is right. I know I served six years on that budget committee and I know that they are