

May 4, 1981

LB 562

CLERK: 25 ayes, 13 nays Mr. President on the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried the amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is from Senator Wesely and that is to reconsider the vote on the Koch amendment to LB 562.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I and a majority of the Lincoln delegation voted not for this amendment which would have brought about half a million dollars in capital construction to Lincoln to renovate the facility for the visually impaired. I voted against this motion because I felt that we had set a policy in the Appropriations Committee against capital construction this year because of budget restraints, because we simply could not afford capital construction. I thought that was a good policy to take that it placed first and foremost the fact that we needed to provide adequate salaries for state employees, we need to maintain our good teachers at our public schools, we needed to do those sort of things first and that buildings could wait. However with the amendments which have been attached I think it is quite clear that maybe the other members of this body haven't adhered to this philosophy as closely as perhaps I wish they would have. So it seems to me that considering the fact that we were quite willing to pass by the opportunity for capital construction in Lincoln at this time it seems others were not quite so willing to sacrifice and I think perhaps considering the fact that this amendment was included in the Governor's Budget, just as the Chadron project was, the governor had recommended not only \$500,000 which is what Senator Koch recommended, but over a million dollars was recommended in the Governor's Budget, 1.2 million dollars over two years for this project. I think what Senator Koch was asking for was merely a half a million dollars to do at least part of the project. So it seems to me that we are not asking for the full loaf, we are asking for half a loaf and I think that it seems only fair that we consider the merits of that proposal because it is quite clear that the philosophy in which many of us voted against it was not particularly shared by the majority of this body so perhaps we ought to abandon it at this time and consider the different proposals on their merit. I move to reconsider the Koch amendment.