

less than one percent. On new construction you exempt \$500,000 so that you would only be spending point seven eight five percent. What if our predecessors had chosen not to have dollars available for art for the building in which we serve? Fifteen percent of this structure was reserved for the enrichment of this building by art. We are asking only for a very minimum continuation figure, and as I explained that truly is less than one percent since there are many exemptions in the current legislation. Please don't step backwards in time. An agency has the option of having it be more than one percent but one percent is a very bare minimum. Let's leave that on the books. They still have the flexibility to have more if they choose but let's not have less for the future generations in Nebraska. We have a legacy. It is our responsibility to see that that legacy continues for we will not always be the person serving in this body. Someday our children's children will be the ones who are in this body. Let's have good legislation remain. We have other important issues to cover this year.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to tell you a story that I think illustrates why we should oppose this effort to bring this bill up on the floor. No, this is a different story, Senator Vickers. It is a story about General Grant back in the Civil War and General Grant was a hard drinking, whiskey drinking soldier who was asked at one time, "Well, do you like anything or are you ever interested in anything cultural?" And he said after thinking about it, "I like music." And they said, "You like music. Well, what kind of music do you like?" And he said, "Well, I like two songs." And they said, "Oh! What two songs do you like?" And he says, "Well, one is Yankee Doodle Dandy and the other one isn't." And that was his response. It was no concern whatsoever, no interest, just a sort of a scruffing off of the idea that art or music or anything had anything to play a role in his life. It seems to me that Nebraskans when we are asked the question, what do you like cultural? What do you believe about in art? How important a role does that play in your lives? I think the response has got to be something more than what General Grant responded with, sort of a shake of the head and a nonchalant brushing off of the whole idea that there is any justification or interest in it and I think that this bill which Senator Newell passed was a good bill at that time and it is still a good process to follow. I wasn't on the Appropriations Committee but I think that those of us who were not on that committee, didn't have the benefit of the testimony, can all agree