

that art plays a role in all of our lives in Nebraska and that we should continue to have that role spelled out in the law in part of our public buildings as they are built across the state. So I ask you all to please oppose this motion and to support the development of art in our public buildings.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullen, are you for or against this issue? I am trying to balance now.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, I thought we were called in the order that our lights appeared on the...?

SPEAKER MARVEL: That is true. That is true. Go ahead.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, briefly I would just say that to raise a point that has not been raised, and since there are so many lights on, I will speak very quickly, but I think we have to talk about the committee system. The committee that took the action to indefinitely postpone LB 657 did so after the benefit of public hearing on this issue and I think that we should respect the committee system and the hearing process as much as we can. Pulling a bill from a committee is a very serious thing to do. It says that we violently disagree with the judgment of those who are informed and understand the issue and who had the opportunity to listen to what the public said on that particular issue. So I think we should think long and carefully before we pull a bill from committee and we should only do that when it is a very serious bill that merits a great deal of discussion and one that we in fact intend to pass. We should not pull bills from committee for other purposes. Secondly I would like to say that one percent is not a significant amount to spend on artwork. I think sometimes the philosophy of this state if we had to replace this Capitol Building would be to contract with someone that sells steel buildings and we might put up a nice looking Quonset hut with a little brick around it and that is kind of the philosophy that we seem to take sometimes. But having a building that has some artwork, particularly a government building, tells people who come into the building something just like this building does. It tells them that it is an important place. It tells us that government is a serious function and I think it also says that government can be creative and that is an important statement and I think we ought to at least be willing to be creative to the extent of one percent of the kind of money that we spend on buildings.