

last depression for some public mural, some sort of aesthetic considerations. Only then was there any money set aside and then members of the Board of Regents got upset about the spending of money. They are not asking for this bill so they could put more into art, certainly not. The motivation behind those who have objected to this is to reduce once again down to zero the percentage for art. Now whatever protestations certain legislators are saying that repeal this bill doesn't mean money won't be spent for art, if we look at the history of this state in construction, that it is only until the one percent of the art bill was passed that we got back to the concept that existed during the depression that there should be a place in public buildings for some aesthetic considerations. Now I think it is in fact the hidden agenda of those that have asked that this bill be introduced to eliminate this sort of allocation. The bill has only been on the books a couple of years. Only now a couple of buildings, a certain amount of money has been set aside, some artworks have been selected, they haven't even been viewed by the public, and we are going to extinguish this flame already. I think that we really ought to look at our heritage, look back to the 1930s and see what sort of things were built in our society, things that you can go through the parks and to the post office and you can see the spirit of the people at that time. There is no expression of the spirit of the people of Nebraska in the 1940s in public buildings. There is no expression of the spirit of the people in Nebraska of the 50s or the 60s or the 70s because this Legislature, because those in charge of public money decided to extinguish that flame and to stop that expression. For the 1980s perhaps we should take one percent of the construction cost of some of the buildings, as this bill prescribes, the public buildings, and express the spirit of this state for the 1980s. We lost thirty years of heritage...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR FOWLER: ...and I think it was a major mistake. This Legislature, I do not think, will allocate any money for art unless it is written into the statutes. I would oppose raising the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to announce 75 fifth and sixth graders from Prescott Elementary School. Their Senators are Senator Fowler, Senator Beutler, Senator Marsh. Susan Petsch is one of the teachers with them, Catherine Rauch and Karen Stanley. Will you stand and be recognized please? Thank you for coming to the Legislature. We appreciate having you here. The next speaker