

March 23, 1982

LB 761

amendment and buy me some time?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Newell would move to amend the committee amendments...(Read the Newell amendment as found on page 1389 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR NEWELL: All right, basically this amendment deals with the 309 Task Force which was established by Senator Kelly, a man who I have been protecting a lot since he has been gone. The Task Force basically has been organized to look at the capital construction needs for preventive maintenance on the state's buildings, and we have traditionally placed in excess of \$5 million per year since the establishment of that commission. Fiscal year '77-'78 it was \$4,500,000. Fiscal year '78-'79 it was \$6 million. Fiscal year '79-'80, it was \$6 million. Last year it was \$4 million, and this year we are going to authorize \$1 million to meet some \$30 million of preventive maintenance needs in this state. Now it is not all preventive maintenance. There is also some energy refitting, refitting buildings for energy efficiency. There is also handicapped accessibility in those figures. I have, however, added or suggested adding \$850,000 to bring the total appropriation, \$150,000 for the Task Force administration itself which is in the Governor's budget, a million dollars which is in the Governor's budget, and the committee's budget, and I am asking to add \$850,000, bring the total amount to \$1,850,000. I think frankly that this is wrong and I wish I had more courage. We ought to, in fact, add \$4 million to this fund. It has been one of the best investments this state has made. It is, in fact, the right thing to do in terms of trying to create some energy efficiency in our building, make sure that the roofs don't leak. I prepared in a hand-out that has been passed out some examples of some prime issues, and I would like to read them. Repair the electrical system in the State Office Building, \$181,000. Replace roofs, the Scottsbluff Veterans Home, \$150,000. \$125,000 to replace the steam lines at the School of Technical Agriculture at Curtis. \$200,000 to install a computerized energy management system at the Medical Center. \$100,000 to replace old steam tunnels at the Penitentiary, and \$206,000 to replace windows at Architectural Hall. Now these are some of the projects that would be eligible for these monies. The priorities will be set, as they always are, by the Task Force themselves. But we are basically allowing \$150,000 for administrative costs and then we are only giving them a paltry \$1 million to do all the work that needs to be done in this state. It is wrong. It is shameful. It is, in fact, false economy. It is penny-wise and pound-foolish, and for that reason