

facility, this Legislature, as a method of encouraging the additional facilities that are being asked for in this project, then we ought to demand, we ought not to just ask in a roundabout way, we ought to demand that there be maximum cooperation in all areas. All of us are well aware of the fact that when we need surgery we like to go to the best possible source, and as the practices diminish in the rural areas, it is inevitable that we're going to go toward Omaha and Lincoln. That is just a matter of common sense and no one would argue with that very much. But I want to emphasize that we have reached the saturation point for many people today in what they can afford for health care cost and I do not buy the argument on this floor one minute that although these are not tax dollars, that they are not taxpayer dollars, they are taxpayer dollars. They come out of the pockets of every single Nebraskan, east, west, north or south, rural, urban, whatever you are. What I am saying is that we need to ask and we need to demand that there be cooperation. We're not getting it now. This resolution, as I offer the amendment, I hope you will read it carefully, allows for the construction to proceed under the financing plan as requested by the university, but it does not say that the Legislature of the State of Nebraska has reviewed the proposal and has found the improvements necessary, that we have found the parking lot necessary, we have found the additional operating rooms necessary, we don't know that. We don't know that. If there is anyone here who does know that, then that individual has a responsibility and the obligation to stand up here and say, yes, I know that they do need those rooms, yes, I know. It's probably easier, as Senator Haberman has said, to point out that they do need the parking lot. I'm not arguing about that although I predicted last year that they would build a parking lot. But what I am saying is, do you want to put yourself in the position of the CON committee? It has been suggested that the CON has outlived its time. Ladies and gentlemen, we are contributing to the demise of the CON committee if we act in their stead in this instance. It isn't easy to stand up here and raise these issues. It is not easy. I do not enjoy to disagree with the procedural methods of the Appropriations Committee. They have worked long and hard on this and I'm sure they have raised many questions that I haven't thought about, but I think it is not the proper method, and there isn't any person here who can tell me why we should approve the project when we are really only called upon to approve the funding. Ladies and gentlemen, we are making another mistake. We made a mistake last year when we did not adopt my amendment. We make a