

with the proper responsible officials did not seem to yield very much satisfaction in the way of correcting the problems. And I do not know and I have not seen anything that indicates whether or not had those early concerns been addressed, whether the deficiencies in the structure might have been more minimal than they are today or if the accelerated deterioration of the structure today is because the early concerns were not addressed. I think that there needs to be some recognition of responsibility, certainly, and I want to say at the outset that I certainly do not want to, and I will not, try to assess blame or to point the finger at anyone here, but merely to raise questions from the standpoint of what if. What if, for example, the same situation were to develop today any structure much more costly, have we in place the kind of supervisory force that would protect the investment of the taxpayers or would we, or could we in fact, find ourselves in the same kind of predicament with a structure that costs ten or twenty times as much money? The other thing that I think is important is, since we apparently cannot recover any of the money from the principal contractors, is there any legal way to bring about a...I guess some kind of restitution through other means? I understand that one of the firms that was involved in this project is also involved in the construction of the Cushing Memorial Stadium at Kearney which causes me grave concern and as I understand most of the members of the Appropriations Committee were not aware of this either until only recently. I think that I would like to give Senator Warner some of my time. I know that's it difficult just to start out here and discuss the entire issue, but I'd like to have him address the issue of, if the committee was able to determine who was responsible, who failed insofar as the university was concerned, if anyone did; if the structural damage was discernible at an early enough time that we could have received some recovery from the contractor, from the engineers or the architects? I also understand that at some point in time this structure did receive some kind of an award and I'd like to find out who knows something about that and find out if the award was for style or for substance. And if it was for style, we certainly have a unique style, and if it was for substance, then we ought to take another look at the individuals or the entity who did the...who made the award. And I would hope that there will be others who will ask questions and, again, I want to emphasize that I'm not at all, I guess, uncomfortable with what the Appropriations Committee has done because we may have just inherited something which we have to work with and we have to find the least costly alternative. The