

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...one where maybe it should be something that comes out of the university's budget as opposed to a separate appropriation that covers someone's backside, so to speak, with regard to something that should have been dealt with a long time ago and clearly until it got to the point where it could no longer be put off, we are looking at appropriating a serious amount of money to take care of the problem. And I would, I guess, feel a little more comfortable knowing that there was an independent study done by the Legislature to examine why we are in the situation we are in with a 15-year-old building. I'm going to support Senator Schmit's amendment but I'm going to also offer my amendment when we have that ready to present to the Clerk. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, followed by Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, I rise with a little almost reluctance because it's not all that often when a member of the Appropriations Committee tries to strike a section of the bill when it came out of the Appropriations Committee, but if you look at the record, I, myself, actually passed when this issue was put in the bill and the reason I passed instead of voting no, I simply explain it just for my own conscience I guess, because I'm one of the people who believes when something needs to be done, we do need to do something to the building down there, I mean, and the logical thing to do is try and make it a safe building. I think I agree that there is a problem. I agree that it's not wise to tear the building down and build it again. It is estimated that will cost two or three times what the dollar figure is here and so I agree with the final net opinion of the Appropriations Committee that we have to do something with the building. Now the part where I disagree is that how much should come out of the General Fund and how much does the taxpayer have to ante up for this problem out there? And I guess I am of the opinion that there is a lot of blame to go around and how we've got to this point, and I guess I'm a little disturbed and probably is a little frustrated over the fact that it's the, in the end, it's everybody seems to have screwed up on the whole thing from the board of regents to the architects to the contractors in my humble opinion and I'm not an expert in any one of those fields but the fact of the matter