

you're calling on me already, Mr. President and members of the body. I would just rise in opposition to the Schmit amendment. I understand perfectly well why it was brought to the floor today and I think it's very legitimate that it was, but I think that we could save a lot of time and get a lot better feel for this issue if we would take Senator Goodrich's suggestion and have the people from the Medical Center come down and have a briefing for the members of the Legislature. I understand your frustration because we have the same exact frustrations on the Appropriations Committee and I think it would be more clearly explained if the medical center itself could go through it step by step with the Legislature. And I would just encourage us to do that rather than...I mean, it just seems like we keep...one question creates another question and I'm not sure that we're always getting the answers that we want and maybe it would be best to have a very clear presentation first and then allow the questions. So I would encourage people to vote against this amendment and then perhaps on Select File, if further amendments need to be added, that would be the appropriate time to do it after we have all been briefed properly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I do appreciate the comments and the conversation that have taken place here this afternoon. I think it has been helpful. I think we are all more knowledgeable than we were when we started the conversation and I guess part of the message that I get here today is that we have learned something from this and, of course, the function of the university is education and so if we have become educated as to how better to proceed with any capital construction project to protect the taxpayers' money, then maybe the \$3 million is a small price to pay. It could have been the new \$50 million outpatient treatment facility that is falling down five or ten years from now and I'm sure that there are going to be some changes made in the process that is followed insofar as construction is concerned. And, again, as Senator Warner has said, it's easy to be Monday morning quarterback. It is not easy, of course, to anticipate all of these factors and certainly the projects that we build for the state, whether it is at the university or any other institution or roads, we're going to have some difficulties because we have those in private industry and we have those in our own personal life. The difference, of course, is that here we have