

by that time, we had already come to the conclusion we've got an unsafe building. We've gone in there and shored all this stuff up and we're doing all these things and all of a sudden the press has created chaos where there was none before. I am making a good faith effort and I have talked with the officials at the university. I'm having a letter drafted to suggest we look at an outside entity, not somebody from Omaha, not somebody within the university system because, obviously, you would be a little nervous about those things, but to try to look at an entity to go over the calculations for, I believe, the fifth time and say, you're right, we have a potentially unsound situation here, we need to fix it. And I'm going to do that between now and Final Reading regardless of whether this amendment passes. The issue, however, before us is that if it does need to be done, is it fair to close down a college, keep the students out of the classes, keep the laboratories from functioning, keep the faculty out of their office, or, at the very least, keep them in a very inconvenient situation for a year and a semester as opposed to a semester? Right now, time is of the essence because the hope is to go in as soon as semester classes are over which is about three weeks from now and start on the inside and work through the fall, displace the students for the fall semester but be ready back for business by the fall...by the spring semester and disrupt them to the least amount. I think the amendment is unnecessary.

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, please, followed by Senator Warner, Senator Hall and Senator Moore. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will confine my topic to the subject, to start with. I don't want to get started but I think that we ought to be considering this. I was going to read a little bit from a newspaper report, assuming that the newspaper is fairly accurate on this. "The Daly report argues against testing, say it would further damage the existing structure and incur additional threat to public safety. Any new knowledge derived from such load-testing can only be of academic benefit and will not preclude the necessity for restrengthening and retrofitting of the building structure in accordance with the above recommendations." I just think we have several reputable firms involved here. Senator Hannibal does have a good idea and perhaps that is appropriate to do at this time and