

CLERK: 19 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The amendment fails. Do you have anything further on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit would move to reconsider the Hall-Withem amendment.

PRESIDENT: The call is raised. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members...

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, just a moment, please. (Gavel.) Let's have it a little quieter, please, so we can hear the speakers. Thank you. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, it is not very often that I rise on a point which in some people's minds might be considered to become a nuisance. But I think that the issue here is far more important than whether or not we appropriate \$2.7 million for the rebuilding of the Pharmacy College. I think the issue is one that ought to be properly decided by this body, not just this issue in itself, but also a whole series of issues. I have been here 21 years and I guess I'm a little bit frustrated when I have some very competent, well-intentioned legislators who, all of a sudden, are bestowed with instant knowledge and wisdom and the unerring ability to challenge anyone who raises a question about what has happened in the past. All of us know that if that structure had been built for any one of us in private business, it would never have been allowed to fall down around our feet without having been corrected long, long ago, number one. Number two, the issue at Chadron was one of a similar nature. No one was responsible, no one was to blame, the taxpayer paid the bill. Number three, we do not know how many other times similar instances have occurred to the detriment of the taxpayer of the State of Nebraska. Number four, the issue of the greenhouses, and, Senator Wehrbein, you will have every opportunity and I will be glad to give you my time to defend the incompetence that resulted in that structure being built as it was and the resulting recommendations for repairs that had been made. But I will not stand here and be threatened and be intimidated by anyone, be it all nine members of the Appropriations Committee, or the 48 members of this body, when it comes to my right and my responsibility to challenge whether or not we are acting