

the Bongers Museum. But, basically, the money we're talking about here, you see, you need some sort of stopgap approach to make sure that we can do something here. Now we don't know whether or not the state will eventually take title to the Joslyn Castle and actually, myself, I don't think it would be wise if we ever did, quite honestly. The only way we're ever going to know what the right to do is is to do this, is to appropriate \$50,000 for the short term, see what it is, the options available for the Joslyn Castle, what sort of possibilities there are for the state government to be involved in the continued operation of this facility as a public facility. And, for those of you that have not been there, you really are talking about a magnificent building, similar to several other historical buildings that the state is involved with across the state, government is involved with across the state. Like I said, I'm speaking once again only for myself. I think this \$50,000 is money that tries to get...gets all of us, those interested in Joslyn Castle in Omaha and those like myself from across the state that are interested in doing something here, this \$50,000 will allow us to find some answers. I think, for that reason, I urge the body to oppose Senator Haberman's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President and members, I guess to say it mildly I've been very skeptical of this approach. Senator Ashford and I visited about this quite a bit. I'm not sure of quite a few of the answers that I think are going to be raised about this. It seems quite significant to put \$50,000 into a study. I wished it was much less. I acknowledge that there probably is something worthy of study here but it bothers me where we may be headed with something like this. We have many significant houses across the state, not too many of them are in state ownership at this time and those that are have been...are those of prominent Nebraskans that have made a name throughout the United States and perhaps the world. I really am a little unsure as to what Joslyn has contributed to on this basis, on this standard, and whether the house as a monument to him is a justification for the State of Nebraska to be in this business for preservation, I'm really not sure. So I'm skeptical on that issue. I'm also skeptical on another issue as to whether it will be financially supportable down the long run. If we put into this, will there be enough attraction to this? Is the office space really to be there? Will it be usable?