LB 813

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Ashford, did...was, originally, the \$30,000 asked for appropriation for a feasibility study?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I think there was a 30,000 and a \$20,000 figure but I...the 50,000 was the amount that was determined to be needed for (interruption).

SENATOR HABERMAN: I know, but in your testimony you testified you were going to ask for \$30,000.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Maybe that was early on in the process and then it was determined that that was not sufficient and that 50,000 would be the number that would have to be used.

SENATOR HABERMAN: All right, I would like to call to attention of the body that maybe the reason this isn't going to the Game and Parks, the Game and Parks fiscal note, the Game and Parks fiscal note stated regarding Joslyn Castle, the renovating cost would be \$345,000 and the maintenance costs are \$100,000 a year. So if you do not remove this \$50,000 which is the seed money, you are saying, we're going to spend \$445,000 a year for the next 100 years to maintain a building. There is more to this \$50,000 than you understand. We started out, first of all, with the \$30,000, going to be studied, the Historical Society, they are the ones that should look at it, the Historical Society, because they want to make this a historical building. But the money is going to DED, Department of Economic Development.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Now that doesn't...that doesn't fit in too well either. To me, this is a plan, and if I was from Omaha, I would probably be doing the same thing, to literally steal \$50,000 in tax dollars to say we're going to maintain this old building and we're going to plan activities. Now what planning activities, I don't know, I'm afraid to ask. So I say that we may have a problem here if the money is spent for maintenance because the state law, the Constitution forbids, absolutely forbids using state funds for a building that is not owned by the state. So I ask you to vote just once to take money out of the budget instead of adding money into the budget. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. And the question is the adoption