

May 4, 1989

LB 812

of us on this floor are able to relate to that at one time or another in our particular careers. I feel very comfortable about what we have done. I feel very comfortable that this thing needs to be done and I am very frustrated, as you all are, about what has gone on since 1976, but, more importantly, I would feel extremely uncomfortable if we would do nothing. If we would disrupt the college that has been under turmoil since 1985 for other reasons, and disrupt the college for another year over what has been done now, and, or heaven forbid, suggest that maybe it is all right and have something happen in there and see where we would be at that point. I just couldn't imagine being there, so I feel comfortable, and if you don't, I understand that but I happen to disagree.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Did anyone ever check into the offer that was made by the gentleman who indicated that he would take responsibility for the soundness of the structure? That came, I understand, very late in the game and maybe it was too late for anyone...certainly too late for the committee to make a decision based upon that offer, but has anyone checked into the veracity of that offer?

PRESIDENT: Were you asking Senator Hannibal?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I am.

PRESIDENT: Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Schmit, yeah, I know what you are referring to. One of the original structural engineers suggested that maybe he would be in a negotiating mood to take the liability for the structure. I think the Chancellor of the medical center sent a letter around I think a week ago or so to you suggesting that that has never come forth before that time, and we have had 12 years for that to come forth, and it had never come forth before, but regardless of that situation, even if that particular person would take responsibility and what if, then, something happened, where would we be as a state?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Has anyone attempted to determine exactly the extent of his willingness to accept responsibility and to find out if, at this late date, there is any kind of responsibility that can be properly transferred to him, Senator Hannibal?