

SENATOR SCHMIT: Would you use any of those people to perform work on any structure which you paid for yourself?

PRESIDENT: You may answer but your time has expired. Did you want to answer, Senator? I don't think you wanted to answer anyway. Senator Abboud, please, followed by Senator Korshoj and Senator Dierks.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, this will be the first time and probably the last time I will speak on this issue. The State of Nebraska has had a history of structures that we have constructed not always lasting as long as the citizens of our state would hope would. The Capitol that we built here in Lincoln originally fell apart, and from that this beautiful structure rose. And there has been other buildings in the past that haven't quite lasted as long as the citizens would hope would have lasted. What disturbs me about the Pharmacy College construction is that this type of situation could occur again in the future, and I think that for the most part the citizens of this state are understanding in the regard that if we make a mistake, if we go to an engineering firm that wasn't up to snuff, and that firm made a mistake, then they can understand appropriating funding to reconstruct the building. But what is disturbing to me is that apparently some members feel that there was no one that was to blame for this entire structure falling apart, and I think that is the real danger of appropriating this money. If we take the attitude that if a building does not work out, if we appropriate the funding, and despite assurances from the university, that structure, or other state agencies, that structure ten years in the future falls apart, I think there has to be some accountability, and we have danced around this issue. Senator Schmit has raised it. He talked about how one of the firms involved in this is constructing a gymnasium out at Kearney State College. Apparently, the State of Nebraska feels that there is no...there was no one to fault in this particular instance, and they are willing to...bids to be let, and even though they may possibly be the lowest bidder, their past reputation, I think, should have some consideration in this matter. It is disturbing that we have to spend this kind of money to reconstruct a building. I know a lot of people that do attend the College of Pharmacy. They have discussed it with me. They said that we do need these structural changes to be made, and with that I agree. We have to do something. We have to construct something, but we have a greenhouse that apparently the university rushed ahead, allowed