

for capital construction. And this is one particular example that is disheartening to me to think that when we appropriate funding, a former Legislature appropriates funding and a Legislature that I was not a part of appropriates certain funding and the Governor decides on what a particular amount should be and the Board of Regents turns around and basically circumvents the intent of this legislative body by spending money in a manner which I felt was probably not in the best interest of the state. It was my understanding that when the greenhouses were originally constructed the plans called for construction in a manner which would serve a greenhouse that would be a lasting greenhouse, instead of a greenhouse that falls apart after 10 years. Now there was some discussion that they had a warranty that provided that the structures' roof or the fiber glass roof would be guaranteed for up to 25 years. And after 10, 11 years this roof has not lasted quite as well as the university had hoped, so now they come back before the Legislature and they say, well, this hasn't worked out, we need additional funding because our buildings are falling apart. Well, as I talked about yesterday, accountability and responsibility should be something that the Regents should be working towards. I understand that the greenhouse is in poor shape. I understand that the Legislature may have to appropriate funding but when I look at our capital construction that is a part of LB 814 and I look at some of the buildings that we're going to be constructing, a large building at UN-O, the Fine Arts Building, other essential services, structures that need to be built throughout this state, it bothers me to think that maybe these buildings won't be lasting quite as long as our Legislature is hoping and that the university knows that if they want to, if that building falls apart, they can come back to the Legislature and say, we would like to have this building reconstructed. Now, the Constitution establishes that the Board of Regents should be the sole body of responsibility for the university system. The courts have established this. They say that the responsibility, that the buck stops with the Board of Regents in university matters. But, unfortunately, what we have seen is, in essence, a buck passing where the Board of Regents make decisions, they make decisions that they know that they will not be held accountable for. They will not be held accountable because they don't have to...they don't have to appropriate the money for these types of mistakes, the Legislature does. I think we have had a good, cooperative relationship with the Board of Regents but I think that there has to be more responsibility and accountability for these...