

for 13 years and there has been absolutely no physical evidence of settlement which you would be likely to expect to see if the...if the footings were, in fact...were, in fact, bad. It's an unfortunate situation, I think, that this has become such a politicized issue but I don't know if it's the fault of the opponents for politicizing it or if it's the fault of those people who were coming down here asking for an appropriation to finish this...to fund this project for not maybe having crossed more of these "t's" and dotted more of these "i's" before they brought it to us. Again, it's not the numbers of dollars that we're talking about spending this year. I recognize it's not a major concern, but I think the manner in which we budget, as a Legislature, is somewhat at question. I think it's proper and just that legislators, like Senator Hall and myself and others, Senator Schmit, Senator Moore, others, that have had questions about this proposal, get real live answers to those questions. In my mind, there is still enough of a doubt, enough of a doubt as to whether this...these funds are actually needed and, frankly, there is less of a doubt as to the existing safety of the building. I mean, we were led, on Select File, to believe that probably ought to route your traffic around 42nd Street because this building is likely to become tumbling down on you any moment. If that is the case, I can't imagine us continuing to have students in the building. It appears to be safe, at least the university officials think it's safe enough to have classes in it at this point. So I question the rush to judgment and I will leave this motion up because I see Senator Abboud and Senator Hannibal have their lights on to talk about some things. I will pull it before Senator Schmit has a chance to speak. No, really, Senator Schmit, I would like to hear what you have to say also. We'll probably not be taking this motion to a vote but I just wanted to let people know what I have found out about it, why I continue to have questions about it and why I'm not going to be voting in support of it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I have about three or four questions and I think Senator Withem could just give me a quick answer. Would you?

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: First, I inquired to be sure how many students