

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...to finance them twice. And I would hope that we would debate this a little bit longer, and more than anything, we would encourage individuals not to proceed without some sort of definite sense of direction and some idea of what they're doing and then, secondly, there ought to be some accountability for those things that happen that are not supposed to happen.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hannibal, please, followed by Senator Abboud and Senator Nelson.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I understand that Senator Withem is going to withdraw the amendment which would mean, if nothing else happens, we're going to read the bill on Final Reading, LB 812. I will be supporting the bill. We have been through this discussion a lot. I can tell you it's not been a very fun two weeks for me standing up here arguing on a building that's falling apart due to faulty something and say we've got to throw \$3 million of taxpayers' dollars into it to fix it; hasn't been fun standing up here selling prisons the last couple days, or saying no to a lot of worthwhile programs that were brought up to the members here that the Appropriations Committee did not find it as high a priority as some of the other issues. And so it has not been a very popular couple of weeks for me. But this issue, I feel very comfortable with. You just got passed out to you a little copy of an article that hit this morning's paper and a letter that came to some of us yesterday, and I think they were Omaha senators, that the engineers...an engineering organization suggests we hold off until a consensus is reached. I would submit to you that there is no way to reach a consensus on this project. I think it would be like saying, let's hold off voting on 769, the abortion bill, until we get a consensus of all parties, it's just not going to happen. Especially with posttension construction and engineering, that kind of construction is almost an art form as opposed to something so solid, it's not like you just put a block down and see how much pressure it will withstand. It's a design structure that is interconnected to each other. I am convinced that, regardless of all the frustrations we have had as to what went on since the building was built and what happened during design phase, construction phase and the litigation phases of this program, I am convinced that we have no choice but to repair this building and that this building will have to be repaired. It will be