

if we do have a chance to vote on 812 this morning that we would pass it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I think the one question that we're all asking ourselves is, how could this possibly happen? The state puts in millions of dollars to construct a building and the building falls apart. I don't think there is any real question that there are some structural problems that have occurred at the College of Pharmacy and I think most of us would agree that these...this building does need to be shored up in some manner. Now, I, personally, resent statements made in a letter that I received from the American Society of Civil Engineers which I viewed as a veiled threat to this Legislature in our public discussion of this issue. I feel that to threaten the Legislature with a defamation suit or any of its bodies impedes good public discussion of this issue. We're attempting to make an important decision, spending millions of dollars and their response is to threaten us with a defamation suit. I resent that and I think that it should be open to public discussion. My principal concern with this issue, as it has been with the greenhouse, is how we could spend millions of dollars on a project and have that building fall apart without any guarantees, without any warranties. I asked that question of the University of Nebraska and apparently they have had...they have made some changes since this problem with the pharmacy college. They instituted a number of changes which took effect in July 20th of 1987 that provided for a check by the campus...it was...these changes were made by the Vice-President of Administration and they implemented four particular procedures, one of which is an evaluation of both the architect and the contractor of the project; another is a final budget report. And one that I think is probably the most important is a post-occupancy inspection for the purpose of reviewing warranties prior to their expiration. I think these policies that were enacted by the university is something that should have occurred a long time ago. Local political subdivisions, I think, maybe because they're more in touch with their tax dollars, usually keep a closer handle on these projects that are being built. And maybe this is something for the Legislature to look at into the future as to enact some sort of standards into statute dealing with all of our state projects so these type of fiascos and loss of taxpayer dollars don't