

May 9, 1989

LB 812

SENATOR HALL: But there is a rolling balance there of what, usually? Between 10 and 30 million?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: I don't know what number is but it certainly would be significant.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you very much, Senator Hannibal. Mr. President and members, the issue here is one where the Med Center could probably pay for this themselves. They have found the \$600,000, as was pointed out by Senator Withem, to go ahead and pay for the first part of the construction or the shoring up and the making the building safe, so to speak, but they have come to the Legislature and asked for an appropriation for the balance of those monies. And I would argue that we don't necessarily need to give it to them, that they have it. What Senator Moore has offered is an amendment that says, fine, we'll put in a million dollars and you find that money someplace else. The fact of the matter is that this is an issue that if it were handled, as Senator Schmit has pointed out a number of other occasions, in any other area of probably government or any private entity, there would be hell to pay and so far that hasn't happened. And all, I think, Senator Moore does through his amendment is say, look, we realize there's a problem, we realize that mistakes have been made, that's water under the bridge. The fact of the matter is that the corrections to the building need to be made. Fine, you have put up the 600,000, we'll put in a million, but the rest of it you are going to have to find someplace else, if it's needed at all. And I would argue that if you adopt Senator Moore's amendment, what you will do is you will get them to take a look at whether or not the procedures or the contract that's been let is even necessary to the extent that has been done. There have been arguments to date that have said that what the Daly Company has proposed very likely may damage the building more. The fact of the matter is there is no guarantee once we put the \$3.5 million into the project on the part of the Daly Company to stand behind whether or not the building is going to fall down around our ears. But in the 13 years that it's been there, it hasn't settled an inch. There's not a crack in one of the floors. The fact of the matter is that much of the damage has already been corrected when they corrected the steel supports to the brick facade.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: But now we're going to go in and spend another