

\$3.5 million to correct the roof, a roof that they have said, if there is a heavy snowfall, could collapse. Heavy snowfall...definition of heavy snowfall is 80 inches. Well, if there is 80 inches of snow in Omaha, there's going to be a lot of other buildings with roofs that have collapsed. It is, to me, just...it borders on criminal the way that this has been handled, not only from day one when the building was found to have structural problems and problems with regard to cracks in the brick facade but to the point in time where we are here today. It's probably really a very good ending for this in that what we're going to do is just go ahead, close our eyes and pay the bill. And I don't blame the people over at the Med Center, I mean, they're just frustrated to death over this issue and they want to get it behind them, and it's an issue where they're going to sign the check or get the check signed by us and, say...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...look, let's just get it paid for and be done with it. I think Senator Moore offers an alternative to that that is a good one. I would urge the adoption of his amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Langford, please, followed by Senator Abboud.

SENATOR LANGFORD: I must oppose the Moore amendment. I would just like to bring one point to the minds of the people here, Mr. President. We are facing another problem and that is greenhouses. The reason we're facing that problem is because funds were cut probably expecting the university to eat part of the costs of the buildings they built. They couldn't cover the costs so they cut the material in the building. It was not a first class building because they didn't have the money. Now we're proposing to do the same thing at the Medical Center. Just remember this, they may have a large Cash Fund but it costs a lot of money, just daily operations in a hospital. That money is spent to run the hospital for the patients who provide the cash funds. Now we...if we pass this amendment, we will be cutting back either on what can be spent for operations on the patients or they must build a second class building and this, in itself, will cause problems for Legislatures in the future just as we are facing the greenhouse roof that won't let light in anymore. So I do ask you to give consideration to your vote.