

May 9, 1989

LB 814

Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I would like to ask a question of Senator Scofield if she would yield, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Scofield, this was the first time this year that I heard of this museum in western Nebraska and I can sympathize with your interest and your concern about developing western Nebraska. But where has this project been over the years that I have not heard of it before?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Schmit. As I indicated to you, the project has been, I guess, you would say brewing for some 27 years. There was a great desire locally to do that locally. And...

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, may I interrupt you, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I think when people began to...

PRESIDENT: Could we...just a moment. I don't have their attention yet. Could we have it a little quieter, please, so we could hear Senator Scofield, please. Thank you.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. There was...there was a desire to do this locally and there wasn't...I think some of the people who wanted to do this were a little skeptical about not having complete control of the project. We have finally worked through those folks, as I mentioned earlier. I even wrote them a feasibility study one time to see if it could be done privately. The biggest glitch in that is the need for the kind of curator...curatorial expertise and the geological expertise that the university can provide, much...all of which is pretty much already on site. So we...I guess, essentially, I just finally decided it's time to do this, that the State of Nebraska has let these folks work on this for 27 years. It's a unique site. It's a special thing to bring before the people of Nebraska and I felt that perhaps at some time it might show up in the university budget but it hasn't. And I'm not taking anything away from Senator Wesely's comments, he's right, I have supported Morrill Hall and there is a major east-west connection here. But, nevertheless, I just decided the university probably