

projects, it's not just a matter of completing the project, and Senator Warner will be the first to tell you once that structure is completed, you better start stashing away 5 percent for maintenance and 5 percent for depreciation. And, of course, then you've got to fill the thing and you've got to hire people for it. You've got to purchase equipment for inside of it. That all comes along also. And so I don't...I'm not...I'm going to support this amendment to take it out. I was told many, many times there was some sort of an agreement last year that we would have a moratorium on new construction. Senator Vard Johnson was able to convince the body and the committee that we should put the planning money in for this project and he did so. And so it jumped a year ahead of everything else and I don't know that that's good business. I want to emphasize again arts are important to Nebraska and I do not disagree with that but I don't think that they ought to have the priority that we are placing on them here. Obviously, the amendment will not be successful but I want to go on record as saying that I believe it's more than we can afford at a time when we ought not to be spending the money in this manner and I would suggest that there might be another time when we might want to look at it. At this time I don't support it and I...the project, and I do support the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: How many more speakers are there, Mr. President?

SPEAKER BARRETT: There's one more light.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you. I will just very briefly...in response to Senator Schmit, and just, very briefly, I certainly wasn't suggesting, Senator Schmit, that this construction of this building is going to solve the drug problem in Omaha, but I was simply suggesting that from personal experience that the Fine Arts, generally, are important...important piece in the puzzle of trying to solve the problem. But, again, I would just reemphasize what Senator Hannibal has mentioned and that is that this project is essentially a classroom facility that has been on the planning...in the planning stages for 20 years. There is a need for it, a need which has been expressed over and over again during that period of time. It will enable UN-O to move into the present Fine Arts facility; other...will provide room for other departments that is much needed at UN-O. One of the