

other, I think, significant reasons for the project is the fact that many of the...or all, or many or all of the institutions that are...which are in the UN-O peer group have major theaters and fine arts facilities. One college in particular, Northwest Missouri State University, which is a competing institution to UN-O, Southeast Missouri State, Emporia State, schools which compete directly with UN-O have significant facilities. I guess the other point I was making, Senator Schmit, was that the UN-O Fine Arts Center is in a major urban area or the Fine Arts Department is part of a major urban area and that does, I think, enhance its mission to a greater degree than it would if it was simply on a campus isolated somewhere. And I think that the department does recognize its mission in that regard. With that, I would urge the body to oppose the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, not often do I somewhat oppose my good seatmate, Senator Ashford, but through this process...and I've not maybe mentioned this much in the last day or two, I know that we were cautioned by my good friend, ex-Regent, Dr. Koefoot, when you put in the planning money along comes the rest. I see the same thing in the proposal that we talked about a few minutes ago, the museum. All of these things are good ideas. I'm certainly not against the arts and I think that we have to have a little of that along with the basics and so on. And I know that it's fine. But I will tell you, folks, when you go back in western outstate and you see how dry it is, and I will tell you it's dry, and the serious situation that we are being faced, a potential here in our state budget in the next year or so, it is very frightening to me. When we see the hundreds of thousands of dollars that's being poured into, hopefully, crop production and nothing but grain laying there in dry dirt and the possibilities of irrigation but that corn has to up there. And visiting with one of the people from down around Auburn, Nebraska area, when they tell you that it's dry down 14 feet, that takes more than a half inch of rain, I will tell you, to produce any crop this year. I would like to see the body go a little bit easy on some of these capital construction projects. What's wrong with having a little bit of money in the bank or a little bit of extra money in the reserve? Once you start these projects, they are...they just keep right on snowballing. And it's...I suppose, I wish that...I'm like Senator Schmit, we had a little bit more money for some water conservation and water quality. But I'm having