

housed in the former structures that were built there when the facility was used as a bomb loading plant in World War II and later on during the Korean War and those structures were designed, of course, at that time for a totally different purpose, were designed for a 10 to 15-year life. That's about 40 some years ago they were built, 45, almost 50 years ago. The facilities are far from adequate. The Mead Center, of course, is very crucial to agricultural research at the University of Nebraska and, consequently, critical to the development of agriculture in the State of Nebraska. This...this structure was originally designed to cost more than \$4 million. It was scaled down to \$2,889,000. I understand at the present time it is going through another down-scaling and, Senator Hannibal, I hope they...when they down-scale it, they do it all the way and not just spread the studs out from 16 inch centers to 24, so to speak. But, in any case, I have been told that it is a planned structure that will satisfy the needs at the present time but which would be susceptible to expansion in the future if and when it was needed. I want it understood that this is not my piece of the pie. I am coming here today because I believe it's needed, I believe it's way behind schedule and I believe it contributes substantially to the development of resources and agricultural income to the State of Nebraska. It is a productive facility, not a consumption facility. It is one which most of you are probably not going to see because most of you are not oriented toward that type of a facility. You're not going to go there to view the arts. You're not going to go there for any other purpose but it is a very necessary part of the system. Sometimes I think that the facility at Mead is the poor cousin of the University of Nebraska and yet is a very vital part of that facility. The personnel out there have labored long and hard under minimal conditions to do good work for the State of Nebraska and I would hope that we would place the planning money in LB 814. I have not spoken to Governor Orr. I do not know how she feels about the project. I would hope that if this body puts the planning money in there that it does remain in the bill. I would be glad to try to answer any questions you have on the project and I would certainly welcome any support for the project.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Schmit. Senator Coordsen, would you care to discuss it? Followed by Senator Landis and Schmit.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the