

Mahoney Park, whether she would change her position, but I won't ask her that.

SENATOR LABEDZ: We don't have the money.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I want to go back over, now this is the third time we have debated this on the floor and it has been through two committees now, but I want to go through again for Senator Labeledz where we are on Joslyn Castle, and where we intend to go with it, so that she...I think she has some misunderstanding, several misunderstandings that she has indicated in her talk and I just want to briefly go through them. First of all, initially, when this project was started this year, it was thought that the best place to go with it was the Games and Parks Commission, and then that was the initial thought. We went to the Games and Parks Commission and got their unanimous approval. The commission unanimously approved the project and came before the Government Committee and spoke in favor of it. So even though there was full support for the project from the commission, it was decided by me and others that the best thing to do would be to place this in the Department of Economic...this project in the Department of Economic Development. The whole, as I have said on a couple of occasions on the floor, the reason for the state involvement was and is to get the project off the ground. This is a wonderful project for Omaha and Omaha doesn't have a preservation project like this within its city limits, and certainly in an innercity neighborhood, and Senator Labeledz representing an innercity neighborhood, I am sure can understand the need for preserving some of the areas of her innercity district. This is not in my district, by the way, but it is an innercity neighborhood and it is a wonderful structure. Since we have started this project, there has been tremendous community support, and Senator Labeledz is right that the continuation of this project is going to depend to a great extent upon community support in the Omaha-Douglas County area. The county board has committed \$50,000 to match the state's \$50,000 appropriation, and that appropriation will be used primarily for maintenance of the structure. It is my understanding from talking to the county board, from Dick Schoettger, that the money cannot be used for a study but must be used for maintenance, and for repairs, and it is my understanding that that is what that money will be used for. In addition, we have gotten the support from many nonprofit groups, both statewide and in Omaha. The State Arboretum Society, which is a nonprofit group located in