

hold the level of conversation down so we can hear the speaker.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Now besides the 400,000 restoration, in 1986, we estimated the cost of staffing Joslyn Castle to be a minimum of 130,000, and the cost of maintaining it based upon current figures to be 100,000. The total would be \$230,000 per year. The cost of maintenance and operation would be more than double our cost of operating our branch museum at Fort Robinson, which includes 11 buildings. It would, in fact, be equal to nearly half our total budget for branch museums. They go on to say page after page, but at the very end, it says, we do not believe the Nebraska State Historical Society should encourage the Legislature to acquire or operate the Joslyn Castle as a branch museum of the society.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator. (Gavel.) Please let's hold it down, especially over under the north balcony. It is awfully noisy out here. Thank you, Senator Labedz. Please proceed.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to make sure that we got part of the study that was done in 1986 by the Nebraska State Historical Society on the cost and the maintenance of the Joslyn Castle. I strongly believe it should be preserved but it should be preserved by Douglas County and the City of Omaha rather than the State of Nebraska in any shape or form. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lindsay, please, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. Senator Haberman is talking about a moat around the castle and I guess I knew this was a rural issue. Ladies and gentlemen, I would suggest this is where we can start our aquaculture program. We can build that moat, put some water in it, and it would be a great place to do it. Seriously, I wanted to talk about the, first of all, the people in the area. Senator Ashford, I think, has made quite a few points on the castle itself and dealt with some of the technical aspects, the covenants and those types. The people in the area, which the castle is located in my district, the people in the area are very supportive of it. People that are not just from my district are supportive of it. People from all over Omaha and I would guess from outside of Omaha do want to see the castle preserved. I think it is not quite accurate to keep saying that