

as do many of you, the...I suppose the futility of what he is doing. But I want you to recognize that I believe it is important that we give some sense of direction as ridiculous as that may be to the College of Medicine because of the fact that we have historically thought this was an important program. For whatever reason, the money has been taken out, but I believe it is important that we give direction to UNMC that we believe it's an important program. Let me tell you, someone mentioned that they could find 600,000 for the College of Pharmacy. Well when the Certificate of Need Committee discovered...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit...(gavel)

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker. When the Certificate of Need Committee discovered what some of us suspected that the new addition to the medical school was not going to be able to be sustained in the manner in which they indicated it would be, lo and behold, the College of Medicine discovered they could afford a down payment of about 6 million bucks which they were able to dredge up from one of two funds which they had on hand, the two funds themselves totalled about \$31 million, two cash funds that are on hand. Now I understand hard times, ladies and gentlemen. I've lived with them all my life. I understand hard shell budgets. But, ladies and gentlemen, one of the things we haven't touched on very much this session and I don't intend to dig it up now, of the amount of the various cash funds that are lying around in these various agencies. Some of them have been lapsed, and appropriately so by the Appropriations Committee, and some are still there. I have not contrasted the remaining amounts with what has been left in those funds in previous years nor do I intend to do so, but I believe it is ridiculous for us to believe that the medical school cannot fund this program when they could find 6 million bucks to build a building which the Department of Health says they don't need and which only after some chicanery the CON committee has said they could support. This morning we discussed the cost of health care briefly and you and I know that we are going to all pay for that building bit by bit, piece by piece, dollar by dollar when we pay our health insurance premiums and our medical bills in years to come. One of the small contributions that has come to rural Nebraska as a result of a very extensive program at the medical school is this program. Now for whatever reason it has been dissected out. I'm not an expert on how you put it back in or how you transfer it back in, I'm not even going to try. I want to register my