

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Ashford would move to amend the committee amendment. Senator, I have AM2405 in front of me, the one you gave me this morning.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members, this amendment is in your books. I'm not sure, is there a page number on that, Patrick?

CLERK: Six-fifty was the one you gave me Friday.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay, it's identical language. I just wanted to make sure that we're thinking, talking about the same thing. The amendment to LB...to the committee amendments is found on page 650 of the bill book and, I'm sorry, of the Journal and what this amendment does is provide that the Nebraska State Historical Society shall acquire, without cost to the state, clear title in the name of the State of Nebraska to all the real and personal property known as Joslyn Castle. The amendment goes on to say that the society shall enter into agreements for the operation, administration and maintenance of Joslyn Castle and may accept grants, gifts and bequests for such purposes. This amendment is the culmination of a year's work by many people in Omaha and also in Lincoln, The Department of Economic Development, the State Historical Society and the Friends of Joslyn Castle group that was put together to do a study commissioned by the State of Nebraska on the reuse or use of Joslyn Castle. We debated this or discussed this bill before and I just would like to, without going through the whole scenario again, I would just remind the body of a couple of points. One, the bill that was introduced this year which would call for the same thing, the Historical Society taking title to Joslyn Castle, had 34 co-sponsors. It passed through the Government Committee with a unanimous vote as have all of the Joslyn bills, and is currently on the floor. In an effort to get this legislation passed this year we have opted to amend the language into LB 164 in the committee amendments and why do we have to do it this year? The reason is quite simple. A year ago the school board, having, were in the process, Omaha Public Schools were in the process of moving their offices from Joslyn Castle to Technical High School and in that process were getting ready to sell Joslyn Castle and at the time when I got involved in February and March, or actually January, February of last