

year, it looked as if Joslyn Castle would be sold for commercial purposes. And I felt and many others felt that Joslyn Castle is extremely significant historically as well as architecturally and that it should be preserved for the public in perpetuity in line with the original deed of Joslyn Castle many years ago. So we started a process going that would eventually, hopefully end up with the preservation of Joslyn Castle as a public place. However, the school district has made it quite clear that if the Legislature does not act this year that it will go back to its original plan to sell Joslyn to a private enterprise and I have felt all along that what is important is accountability. The state provides accountability to the citizens of the state that, to its citizens, that a structure such as Joslyn Castle will remain intact and will be open to the public. So we do need to act right now. Some of the questions that have been asked of me, one, does the State Historical Society approve of this transfer? The answer is yes. Jim Hanson was present yesterday at a gathering we had at the Castle and made the statement, to me and to the press, that the Historical Society approved of this transfer, encouraged it and felt that Joslyn Castle was the kind of facility that would fit into the Historical Society's plans. Another one of the concerns that has been raised is, what would the cost be to the state? The bill itself quite specifically states that Joslyn Castle would become a state property without cost to the state and there would not be a purchase price. I have discussed with Senator Warner and the fiscal office about what a fiscal note would look like on this bill if it gets to Select File and I think the answer is that the fiscal note would have some small dollar amount in there to provide for one employee who would be responsible for making certain that Joslyn Castle conformed to the guidelines of the Historical Society and to make sure that it is preserved adequately and appropriately. In this regard, as you know, the Historical Society is also involved in a project at the Ford birth site and Jim Hanson expressed to me his feeling that possibly that one employee could be responsible for both the Ford facility as well as Joslyn Castle. I might also add that the other third question was, how are you going to support this facility? And I believe I told the body last year that we were going to attempt to get a commitment from Douglas County to lease space in the castle and we have. I have a letter from Michael Albert dated January 3, 1990, in which he makes a commitment that Douglas County will lease the top two floors of Joslyn Castle for its tourism department. That's a significant help to us in making certain that we have an anchor tenant for