

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, of all the amendments we've had up today, I have listened very intently and have been trying to understand the process of deficit appropriation and under the definitions, as I understand them, this request that I have is a deficit appropriation, truly because it's based on an unforeseen need at the time the budget process was occurring this problem and crisis was not there. It's for one-time money. It is not a continual budget matter. And this has another additional condition on it it, the money is conditioned on a grant. And I guess ever since I have been a kid I have always had trouble standing up asking for money because of the response my father gave me and that somewhat hindered me in the past from doing so except when there is a tremendous amount of need and that's what I bring to you today. In 1979, this Legislature passed legislation that created the Nebraska collection of art and through that collection of art they took all of the Nebraska artists and their art work, as well as those of Nebraska scenes that depicted Nebraska sceneries and a variety of things from our state. But we didn't have any place to put them and so they were stored in basements, in vaults and storage rooms out at Kearney State College for a number of years and they stayed there until 1986, at which time a post office was purchased, the United States postal department outgrew their gorgeous building that they had in Kearney, it's an old Gothic building, there's a brochure on your desk that shows that building, and it made a great, great home for the Nebraska art collection and thus in 1986 that building was purchased and a fund drive was started to make it an appropriate museum. If you remember how hot and humid it was in this building yesterday, today we've got a little air conditioning and it's a little more comfortable, it's a little easier to be in here, but it's also especially important for art. Because of the present conditions in the Nebraska Museum of Art, there is not the proper ventilating, there isn't the proper air conditioning and there isn't the proper storage areas for all the pieces of art that have been collected. Since 1979, pieces of Nebraska art have continued to flow into the Nebraska art collection. We now have over 4,000 pieces. There is no place to put all of the art that we have at the present time. Most of you have been at least familiar with the Nebraska Museum of Art, the collection. I know of several members, as I look through the registry, who have visited the Museum of Nebraska Art, over 30,000 of our citizens every year go through the museum. Now Joslyn is an international museum in Omaha. Sheldon, here in