

Lincoln, is basically an American art museum. The Museum of Nebraska Art is solely for Nebraska art. We are only one of three states to have our own art collection and in that fact we're unique. It's unique that this building, back built in the times of great economic problems and depression in this state, the legislators and the citizens of this state had the foresight to say that art was important, we just didn't build an old shed and have a Legislature. We built a very functional but yet very beautiful building. The reason that the need is great at the moment is that we need \$3.7 million to be raised to preserve the Museum of Nebraska Art to make it functional for the collection of art and to preserve this art and also in the future if we're going to have people contribute and donate this art, we need to have a suitable building. To date, a million seven has been raised. Another million dollars was given in a challenge grant by the Peter Kiewitt Foundation and that was...that grant was to be matched by our additional funds to get up to \$3.7 million. The deadline on that was the end of 1989. We were short at the end of 1989 and at that time were given a six-month extension till July 1st of this year. That's the reason that you don't see a request in the mainline budget, it was because the fund raising was going well. We're now at the end and we're a little short. In order to preserve the funding amount of a million seven, additionally we need to have some assistance from the Nebraska Legislature and thus this deficit appropriation for \$395,000. No, the Museum of Nebraska Art isn't going to be a research center where we grow more corn. It isn't going to be a scholarship for more students, but it's the preservation of one of the institutions of this state and I think that is one of our main missions is to preserve those institutions that we have. It's truly a state treasure and it's certainly something we need to preserve and protect. If we do not have this deficit appropriation, we will lose a little over a million and a half dollars and the Museum of Nebraska Art's fund drive will fail. There is some urgency. We can't until next year because the deadline is June 30, 1990. If that deadline comes and goes, the money will be lost and so will the Museum of Nebraska Art. For those of you who have not been out there, I have provided you with some brochures to look at it for the proposed project. We're in a situation right now if we don't get this additional money, it's a now or never proposition. This is something that can't wait. This is something that will go away and the Museum of Nebraska Art will cease to operate and the Nebraska art collection is going to be placed in jeopardy. The Legislature, 10, 12 years ago, had the foresight to make this collection. It