

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR MOORE: And the Board of Trustees has liberally used that act to create a museum, I don't think it's our responsibility to fund it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wehrbein, please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members, I think, too, that this is a very, very probable good thing that should be funded but I don't believe it's appropriate to use state tax dollars. First of all, I don't think it really, truly falls in on a true deficit, mainly because we have not been appropriating any money. There is perhaps \$10,000, as I understand, perhaps funded through this via Kearney State College, I assume. On the other hand, this is not...was not an issue at all in front of our committee at any time, which I think right there makes it not really permissible for a deficit appropriation because we had no knowledge of this ongoing program at all. If it was a priority with the college or with the Board of Trustees, it is not, to my knowledge, on any priority list whatsoever. In other words, not only is it well down on the priority list, I don't know that it's even on a priority list. So there hasn't been any apparent public discussion of this in request for public money in this particular case. I don't know who owns this building. Senator Kristensen, would you answer a question? Who does own this building?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: There is a Nebraska Art Collection Foundation that actually owns the building.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Is that private?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, it's...yeah, it's a nonprofit although it's...they bought the building and then the college leases it for the use of the art collection pursuant to statute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I think it would be inappropriate to put public funds into a private foundation in this case, even though the cause is obviously very worthwhile. So, even though I would sympathize and empathize with the need for perhaps this kind of a building, I think it's totally inappropriate to put public funds in under this situation. I think it's inappropriate that it hasn't really received adequate public scrutiny in this case. It doesn't really fall under a deficit and I think that we would