

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, it's almost difficult to be serious, but I am very familiar with the building. I've been in there and so on and I know that each and every one of us will have our priorities and so on. You probably wonder, locally they have done a lot of work. I think they've raised about \$365,000 locally. The...depending upon raising the additional money needed for them, they're coming right down to the crunch line of a million dollars for foundation money and I know that we each have our own priorities, whether it be Joslyn or whether it be a car museum or Fort Robinson or the Stuhr Museum, we all have our own individual interests and the Museum of Art, you wonder why I'm even speaking of this. I look at it out in God's country and the tri-city area or the central Nebraska area or whatever area, may it be Alliance or Chadron, Nebraska. This is a community project and it is appreciated and with Kearney I know that they're down to the deadline and sometimes we have to somewhat stretch our imagination. I know we're starting a brick and mortar building in Omaha for the arts and since this is so near to the point of no return I would hope that the body would give it very serious consideration. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chizek. Senator Chizek, please. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond to a few comments made by Senator Moore and Senator Wehrbein. You have got to understand that this is just not a City of Kearney project, this is not some private individual who is receiving funds for the collection of art. This is the entire state art collection that the Legislature directed to be accumulated and somehow has to be stored, and if we are going to have an art collection, you have got to have it available for people to see it. For all those years that this art has set in basements and deteriorated, nobody has got a chance to see that art. And, Senator Moore, after...I am not near the scholar of the appropriations process as yourself, I have been schooled that that is Cash Funds that flow into that and not General Funds that flow into this nonprofit corporation. Kearney State, for years, took care of this and was the home for it and just plain run out of room. We just don't have the room to put it.