

world. One of them is stored out there that could have been lost in the fire this summer. I think, just as the tornado the other day at Sutton would indicate, Mother Nature is not very kind some days, and to put something off like this, really puts a treasure at risk. So I am bringing back before you this year, again, the proposal that we get on about the business of developing the Trailside Museum complex at Fort Robinson which consists of a suitable facility to house, not only the Columbian mammoths but other priceless artifacts that are currently stored in Nebraska Hall and elsewhere and, frankly, need to be displayed. These are recognized as world class finds. They will bring people into the State of Nebraska that are interested in this sort of thing. Our experiences I would expect to be more positive even than what happened in the Black Hills of South Dakota when they developed a site for paleontological work up there. It has, frankly, moved the tourist traffic in the Black Hills of South Dakota clear to the south and has brought a lot of people in and has brought a lot of revenue into that area. And so this is an important treasure for Nebraskans. It is an opportunity for school kids to have not the equivalent of Morrill Hall, because I don't envision anything that grand, but something at least out there than kids in the western half of the state could travel to and appreciate and also it is a major scenic attraction. And I think that the situation out there this summer illustrates how irresponsible, quite frankly, the state has been in not caring for this find. This find was first discovered in 1962, and I would suggest that this perhaps is as much a citizen driven initiative as anything that brings before us. It has statewide support from groups around the state who recognize the value of this and are fully in support of developing this project. What I ask you for this year is money to take us through the design and development stage of the project. You may recall that, out here in the rotunda and downstairs, there were proposed renditions of what this museum might look like that were completed by architecture students. It has been fun to watch the enthusiasm for this project that has been expressed by architecture students, frankly, that had never been out there, didn't know what the area looked like, didn't know about these treasures. And, frankly, they came up with wonderful entries in the Pella competition. The Trailside Museum was deemed important enough to be a project under the Pella competition which is a competitive activity for architecture students, and I hope some of you got a chance to look at those. Those young people did a wonderful job of talking about what the possibilities were for showing off this