

are a good number of fossils and paleontological finds that are not exhibited, never have been exhibited in this state that will, in fact, make this a world class tourist attraction. And I think we can expect the same kind of interest and activity to come into Nebraska from Mount Rushmore in particular which is a major tourist destination that some of the South Dakota attractions have enjoyed who have also pursued this area. There seems to be a growing interest in this area. So I think it's important that we do this. In fact, I think it's irresponsible if we don't do it. We almost...we could have easily lost these treasures last summer in the fire. Fortunately, we did not but we all know the likelihood of Mother Nature's swooping down on us with some other disaster and, frankly, the building they're in now is just unsafe, so I ask your support to put in the planning money and get us started on this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please, followed by Senator Wehling.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members, Senator Scofield, would you yield for a couple of questions?

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: I almost jumped right out of my skin yesterday when Senator Schmit stood up and said, we're voting on \$5 million. I thought, well, did I read this correctly? Because I voted for it last year and I do think you need to get into the planning stage. At the moment, is that what we're talking about is the planning money?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: We are at this point asking for money to get the initial planning and through the design development phase going and then a future Legislature, hopefully, the next Legislature would eventually approve the actual construction money...

SENATOR CROSBY: ...has to be.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Right.

SENATOR CROSBY: Then the other thing is, are there any plans? I just think it would be interesting for all of us to know, are there any plans for any foundations or anyone to help in making, you know, donations for the building so the state may not in the