

change, a very positive improvement in that facility on a priceless collection and I think Senator Weising has just emphasized in his experience and in my own at a different time at the university it influenced me in a similar fashion. It influenced now with this renovation many more students far into the future. We are short of finishing that project, though. We need another \$4 million to take the exhibits and bring them in to the renovated space and we're hoping that at some point we will be able to find \$2 million additional state funding to be matched by \$2 million in private funding and I hope to work with Senator Scofield and other senators in trying to secure the funding for that in the future, but at this time obviously we want to try and improve the situation out in the Fort Robinson area. Having been out there many times I appreciate it very much. I also know that it's got the potential of being a major tourist attraction. Anything we can do to help will enhance its viability as a tourist attraction for the nation. It's close to the Black Hills area, not far away, and many people do travel there and could easily move on down into Nebraska and the Fort Robinson area and do so; and we could have that increase quite a bit if we could provide an attraction like this of national renown, so I do think it's a good project and would support the legislation.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. President and colleagues, just very briefly, I also rise in support of this bill. Fort Robinson is one of the places that my sons really like to go to. We spend at least three or four days there every summer and they like to go up there. They also are very interested in the museum up there. And after the forest fire and the problems they had last year with that up there, I think it makes it even more important for us to look at this area and to make sure that when we have a museum that we design it and have one that will protect the items that are displayed there. There is some very good items displayed there. There are items that can't be duplicated anywhere else in the state, and I think we need to provide the protection for those items, and I think that this is a good step in that direction. It also addresses a problem that we have in this state of having accessibility for students out in western Nebraska to have some of these things available to them that are available to students from Lincoln and Omaha through Morrill Hall and some of the other museums that are here. So I think it's just a matter of providing those students with access to