

this is an amendment that you probably want to listen because I am not sure that it is being handed out, because we just approved it this afternoon in meeting, to be offered today, but it is relatively straightforward so I can explain it. Several of you probably recall, I think it was first in 1987 legislation was introduced for the appropriation but we enacted it in 1988 in the amount of \$150,000 which was to complete the murals on the 14th floor, which is the Memorial Room. It is handed out, oh, great, thank you, Senator Smith. At that time, it was estimated that those murals could be completed in the vicinity of \$120,000, 30,000 of that 150,000 was to be utilized for the work necessary to prepare for that, but also an important part of it was competition, in effect, a competitive situation where artists within the State of Nebraska and outside the state, for that matter, would be asked to submit proposals that would meet the criteria that was established by the commission that is to approve these. The members of that commission came to us within the last few days and they have...I think their last meeting was some day last week...indicating that the cost for the kind of quality of our artists' work that would be consistent with the Capitol has far exceeded what was available in the appropriation, what it was estimated to cost back in 1987, which was actually the period in which the 120,000 was arrived at. They indicate that if in this competitive effort that will be, actually, nationwide of finding appropriate artists to complete this work, which, by the way, will take probably five or six years to complete, four to five years to complete, but in order to attract the kinds of quality of artists that one would like to see in this Capitol that funding far in excess of \$120,000 will be required. Actually, the increase here is 380,000, or a total of a half a million dollars. That 380,000, however, is divided over a four-year period, 95,000 per year, and this would become like a capital construction project that was built over time. It would require reaffirmation on the part of the Legislature in the succeeding budgets to reaffirm that expenditure. But if it is authorized, now then when they put out the RFPs, Requests for Proposals, from various artists, they can indicate the type of current appropriation, at least, that this Legislature had approved for the project, and it was the feeling of those who are on the commission that then it would be much more likely that you would have some very excellent artists. I was interested in visiting with them, that one always has some concern about art and whether one can understand it, it was interesting to me that they indicated that some of the type of art that was dominant probably 15 years ago, which I