

this last 19 months to bring Joslyn Castle to its proper place. And I think that there have been at least three committee hearings on this bill, six or seven votes by the body, and I don't think there were any more than four votes no all the way through the process. Commencing in about four or five months ago there were...there was a significant amount of work undertaken to restore Joslyn Castle. And I've sent to you a list of what has been done as of this date. As you may recall, last year I promised or told you that there were going to be monies spent voluntarily by the citizen of Omaha and the school board to try to bring Joslyn Castle up to the state...up to a restored state. And, quite frankly, that has been done substantially in the last few months. As you will note, that already 239,500 dollars has been spent in restoring Joslyn Castle. Approximately twice that much, or a little more than 200,000 more dollars will most likely be spent before the project is completed. Last year this Legislature commissioned a study on Joslyn Castle, and that study was done over a four or five month period of time at the end of 1989. The study was funded by the state, it was approved by the Governor and was done by Marty Shukert in Omaha and others, the former City Planning Director. Mr. Shukert concluded after, and you've all seen the study, it's approximately 180 pages, the recommended option was or is that the Omaha Public Schools deed the castle property to the Nebraska State Historical Society at no cost. And the Historical Society would serve as the trustee of the property, but would not be involved in its day-to-day administration. It went on and reviewed some of the responsibilities that the State Historical Society would accomplish. Last year I made representations to this body that this...that the State of Nebraska would not be responsible for restoration or maintenance of Joslyn Castle, nor would it ever have to pay a purchase price for Joslyn Castle. And LB 164 is...I have followed through to the letter on LB 164 inasmuch as there is no purchase price included, there is no cost for restoration or maintenance. The cost of restoration and maintenance will be paid by the citizens of Omaha, the Symphony Showhouse Association, Douglas County and others that have contributed so generously to this facility and this project. Why is this an important thing to do now, and why should the state do it? It's important to do now because if we don't do it the school district will sell Joslyn Castle to the highest bidder. And that, most likely, will be to a private developer which will have then the advantage of all of this work that has gone into Joslyn Castle on a volunteer basis. And I think