

that's extremely unfortunate. It's contrary to all of the votes that this body has given to Joslyn Castle, all the way through, from the beginning to now. As I suggested, I think there has never been less than 30 votes on any measure for Joslyn...in favor of Joslyn Castle since it started. And 34 of you voted or signed onto LB 164 when it was initially introduced. The last vote on LB 164 was 40 to 2. So, based on those, and somewhat in reliance upon the state's participation in the study and the state's continued support of Joslyn Castle, these renovations and restorations have occurred. If we do not act, if we let it go, if we bring it to the five yard line or further and do not complete the project, do not complete it to its end and let the State Historical Society take title to it, the project will be sold, and it will be sold for commercial purposes, it will not be open to...totally open to the public. It will not be...in all likelihood will not be owned by a public entity, but will be owned by private entities. Senator Moore asked me a question last time, why should I, as a Senator from Stromsburg, do this project? And the reason why Senator Moore and others should do...vote for this project as they have in the past is because this is such a unique situation where the citizens of Omaha have put in 240,000 dollars of money for this project and are willing to give it to the State of Nebraska, the people of the State of Nebraska at no cost. I don't know whether or not that has ever occurred in our history. I know there have been other homes that the State Historical Society has taken title to, the Kennard House across the street, the Willa Cather home, and in both those cases I believe the State Historical Society's involvement is much more significant. The restoration and maintenance, I know looking back at the history of the Kennard House, the restoration maintenance of the Kennard House is or has been and continues to be undertaken by the State Historical Society. Why the State Historical Society? Obviously the State Historical Society is the one agency that is charged with the mission of restoring or maintaining homes of this type and projects of this type throughout the State of Nebraska. Jim Hanson, the Director of the Historical Society, and others on the board and other historians have indicated that Joslyn Castle is the one or two...the first or second or third most significant homes in the State of Nebraska. If we...as I said at the outset, we should do this for two, basic reasons. One, we'll lose it. The state has participated in this project for one and a half years or more and now we get it to the point where it will be finished, it will become a wonderful project owned by the State of Nebraska at no cost and we just pull the