

it gets more costly every year. They did a good job here in the Capitol of refurbishing the offices but I think that was a little bit ahead of what it should have been, because the roof should have been repaired first. I think Senator Abboud's office is one that's got some leaks in it. And the roof is in good shape, but it could be...could have been brought up prior to this and been in a little better shape. The Open Air Auditorium, out at the fairgrounds, is one that's been there for many years and has had a lot of usage and could receive a lot more usage, it's one that's on the National Registry of Buildings. So I think we need to preserve it. You look at the cost, if we tear it down it's going to cost about as much to tear it down as what it is to fix it up, then we'd still be short a building out there. And I think that's something that...in the fair that we have to support for our future generations of people that will be using that area. I think that money to preserve buildings is always well spent. I think it's sometimes better spent than building new ones. If you go back and look at what happened up with the pharmacy school at the Med Center, built a new building, and we spent more money to fix it up than what it would cost to build it, and that was not that old a building. I think some of these older buildings, like the Capitol and that, that we're better off to spend the money and preserve them than we are to go in and repair some of those that should have been fixed the first time. So I would support this appropriation.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beyer. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, would you like to close, Senator Abboud?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Madam President. I think we've had a good discussion about what the money is going to be used for. And I suppose we could take the approach that we should take care of our existing buildings rather than building new ones. But that isn't quite as glamorous as maintaining existing structures. It's hard to imagine, for me at least, that the State Capitol would be leaking. But if you look in this Chamber, you can see the damage that has been caused by a leaky roof. Over to the right, up along the top there, all the water stains that have been the result of the roofs not being adequately maintained. The flashing is allowed to be eroded away, so we have leakage in the Chamber. We have leakage around the promenade deck, and some already have leakage, and some will have leakage by the time next year comes around. We've had some amount of repair,