

September 28, 1992 LB 9

at this point. So with that, I would urge the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam President and members, I will speak very briefly, but I support this concept. I understand the concern of many that have expressed concern about moving ahead into the nineties. I am not going to be one to say that they are completely wrong. They may well be right. On the other hand, I am not quite that pessimistic. As we look ahead, we know business, and I assume government, runs in cycles to quite an extent. We are not really getting carried away in using our cigarette tax, at this point, for bonding into the future. I think it is somewhat reasonable what we are doing, but I think most important, many of these projects here are extremely critical, and probably more important in tough times than they are necessarily in good times, especially those concerning research and the college education buildings that are involved here. So I think perhaps it is not time to cut back our investment in the future, and I guess I am prone to make a distinction between operations and investment in this case, and I think, obviously, these are investments in our future in Nebraska. They are capital investments just like a business would be making. But I think all of you realize that if you are in business for yourself, you have to keep making investments through good times and bad many times. Many times it is the investments made in the bad times that get you through the bad times, themselves, because you have to either expand or grow knowing that you can't simply sit still. Sitting still is tantamount to really going broke in many cases. And I think the state needs to move ahead on some of these. I think it is very modest. That is my main premise here. I don't...I wouldn't be inclined to go on a major building expansion myself, but these are fairly modest. They are many that have been on the drawing boards for many, many years. They are needed. I think the proposal we have is modest enough that it still meets the criteria for being conservative in many people's mind. Perhaps that is a play on words but I would urge the support for this. If Senator Beutler comes up with something that is more tantalizing to me, I would be willing to look at that. But at this point, I would urge your support of LB 9.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Does anyone else wish to speak to this bill? Seeing none, do you have closing,