

Senator Moore?

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As I mentioned in my opening, it is one of those things, if you want to build these projects, certainly, in my opinion, now is the time to do it. And legitimate questions have been raised on the floor about the wisdom of bonding these projects, and I share in that concern. But I also think it is important to point out, in the State of Nebraska, this biennium and next biennium, the only capital construction really scheduled for the state, with exception of some things out in Game and Parks paid for by park fees, the only capital construction scheduled over a 4-year period is what we are talking about right here, the only capital construction this biennium and next biennium now on line approved by this Legislature. We are talking about \$17 million over a 4-year period, and there is 6, \$7 billion going through in General Fund dollars in that amount of time, and we are only spending 17 million on capital construction. That is point...less than point, two percent of the tax dollars expended go towards capital construction on these things. Now is there a legitimate concern on doing it? Yes, but it is a small, small, small, small fraction of what it is we are spending money on. And this amount, I mean, yes, Senator Beutler is right, there is interest rates there, there is interest payments there, should you do it? I guess I am not going to...I mean if we were, you know, embarking on some giant building project at this point in time, I would certainly agree with Senator Beutler's concerns. We are talking about some very small building commitments that were made way back when, and I don't think it is unreasonable to go towards bonding. You know there are people out there in the world that pay cash for their houses. There are people out there in the world that pay cash on the barrel for their cars, but most people, people like me, at least, people like me, at least, have to go to the bank to get through some times. That is, basically, what the state is doing in this situation on a very, very, very small level. If you are committed to these projects, I think you ought to vote for the bill. I don't think you are making unreasonable...you are boxing the state in in any unreasonable way, shape or form. It is in the scheme of things a very small situation. It is a precedent that has happened time and time again over the years. You are, basically, in a pinch now. Instead of paying it on a cash-as-you-go basis, you are spending on a very, in the terms of bonding, a very small...you are requiring only six years. I think it is a reasonable thing to do. I'd ask the body to advance LB 9.