TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 15, 2006 LB 1060

things that artists, male and female, have given to the world, those things were not here, people who are knowledgeable would feel that the world were poorer, but they would have that view only if they had been aware of these things and then suddenly they were taken away. Everybody has heard of the Sistine Chapel; everybody has heard of Michelangelo. people don't know that he was quite a writer and a poet, in addition to being an artist with the brushes and with the hammer and the chisel. That statue of David that he sculpted, obviously is a classic. Everybody will be aware of Mona Lisa, after the Da Vinci movie comes out. You could talk about work of Picasso; that's a guy who did a kind of painting that I didn't particularly like, but other people did. something in the realm of art for everybody. Art nourishes and nurtures the spirit. It gives a person who is an artist the opportunity to express himself and herself in a way that nothing And when you observe good art, whatever your else will. judgment tells you is good art, something in the nature of serenity may invade your system, or it may have the impact of enraging you, because that's what the artist intended to evoke in you, by way of a reaction. So I will never, I will never diminish the impact of the arts. Do you realize, every building could be constructed like a box--four straight walls, right angles, and a flat roof? Well, you'd make it slant a little bit so the water would run off. But since you're being very efficient and pragmatic, you'd let it be flat, then when it rained and it froze, then you'd turn it into an ice-skating rink, and in the summer, when it wasn't raining, you'd let it be a roller-skating rink. Why do you think all the trouble was taken to construct this building the way it is? You don't have to have all this to keep the rain out or to keep the snow out. You don't have to build windows with all of those designs that you have here. But when you go to churches, you have all these rich, lush, luxuriant colors that are not necessary to serve the purpose of a window. Why are there ornate doors, French doors? Why? You don't need all of that. Beauty is useless in the sense of serving any utilitarian purpose. If you go to one of these estates or a park where they carefully tend the grounds. they shape the trees, they shape the bushes, every kind of foliage, you look at it and you might not even be able to describe what you see. But there's a reaction that you have,