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LB 1129

hearing rooms that we will be replacing are hearing rooms that lack many, many, aesthetic qualities. The hearing rooms that other committees serve in such as the Urban Affairs hearing room are not suitable rooms to use as hearing rooms. They shouldn't even be hearing rooms for legislative purposes. Interestingly enough we have put into this year's budget a plan for next year wherein we can do a planning statement for a Performing Arts Center here in Lincoln. And, should that come to pass, do you think the Performing Arts Center here in Lincoln will have an auditorium that is filled with tin chairs? With metal chairs? No. It will have an auditorium that is filled with the kind of furnishings in our Education hearing room and in our Revenue hearing room and our Ag hearing room and our Public Works hearing room. It will be suitable for the people who will come and use the facility. Our hearing rooms today are not suitable to the people who come and use the facilities in keeping with the grand scheme that our forebearers planned for this capitol building. You know I take a tremendous amount of pride in the feelings of our citizens for art. I think that this state, I think this state is a wonderful state when its Bicentennial Commission decided to use its bicentennial money for sculptures along the interstate system. We had a competition and we said let us put on the interstate those sculptures that we thought were the most artistically pleasing and satisfying sculptures. Now a lot of our citizenry smiled and chuckled over "Irma's Desire", and a lot of our citizenry smiled and chuckled over a couple of the other art forms that were put on the interstate.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: But, the thing that nobody smiled and chuckled over was again our fidelity, our commitment to aesthetic quality in our life and that is what this building is. It is a part of our commitment to aesthetic quality in our life. This is the year to put the hearing rooms in. They have been deferred three years now. They need to get started right away. It does cost \$600,000. I can guarantee you if not now, when; if not us, who. Lets do it.

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