

May 2, 1979

LB 594

talk about just a couple of things that have been broached by other senators on the floor this morning. This building was constructed in the early 1900's, not for the purpose of a center of instruction but as a Y.M.C.A. Since then it has held a book store, a restaurant at other times and it is not a building designed to be used as a theatre facility. Now for the section that currently exists, which has a rather beautiful neoclassical style of architecture, there is a renovation planned, a gutting of the building leaving the beautiful exterior and a creation of the insides into classrooms and facilities useable for the instruction that that building is now being used for. There is to be also an addition as well. Also as was pointed out by Senator Marsh this building has been condemned repeatedly since as early as 1947 and in 1972 it was suggested that the building no longer be used for instruction purposes nor be habited by anyone until major changes had been made. The building has been insufficient for educational purposes for decades. It has failed to meet life safety standards for a rather long time and it is simply inadequate. The question is whether or not we make the inevitable change now or at some time in the future. There is in the guise of the Schmit amendment that has the supposed price tag of \$2,000,000, in fact, only \$100,000 of money, postponing the decision on this bill and on this measure for another year. Actually you only have a \$100,000 of planning money, a process which has been going on now and we are ready to begin construction of the building. We are ready to begin the serious contemplation of the construction of the building but the Schmit amendment is simply a delaying tactic. This body has met on this issue. We voted on it earlier today. Let's handle the Schmit amendment for what it is and that is a rehashing of something we have just decided, the knee jerk and slab dash approach to appropriations which it is and the off the cuff kind of approach of planning very significant structures for our university. That is not the kind of procedure we need to follow as a Legislature and as a policy maker and I call upon the Legislature to reject the Schmit amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson, have you spoken on the issue? I recognize you.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I know the hour is late, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, and I am going to limit my remarks. A couple of things happen to me when I come into the State Capitol Building. I almost always see a mother and