

April 1, 1982

LB 761

for the renovation of a building, Kearney State, a building that needs repair, desperately needs to be done, and to move that money, that \$600,000, to put into the 309 Commission for deferred maintenance, also that needs to be done. Now let me tell you, I don't do this with any happy heart because, frankly, the project at Kearney State is one that is long overdue, but I remember the arguments that were made when I offered \$850,000 additional money to the budget for 309 and those arguments were, you know, we have got to set priorities and this year is the year we can't afford to add additional money to the 309 Commission. But here is a building that could be delayed one more year and if for some unfortunate reason I should be back in the Legislature I will work very hard to make sure that that is funded next year. But I think we ought to delay it for this year and spend that \$600,000 for deferred maintenance. It is something that will pay off in the long run. It is a preferable investment. With that, I would urge this Legislature to accept this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, is this the amendment that moves the money to 309?

SENATOR CLARK: Yes.

SENATOR WARNER: All right. Mr. President, I would rise to oppose the amendment and I appreciate Senator Newell's concern and interest in 309. As a matter of fact though probably this particular structure as much if not more than any state structure I know of really almost meets the conditions of 309 even as a renovation of a structure. I don't know how many of you have been in that building. It is an extremely old building. The money is essentially to effect to gut the inside. Some of you who have been out at Kearney State will know that the one structure is condemned on the top two floors, hasn't been used for some years and this is an integral part of trying to develop the whole campus between these structures that are in such bad shape. We have expanded the library facility there somewhat under construction now. The use of the renovation of the A. O. Thomas again is in direct relationship to the moving around of the departments that is necessary to fully utilize that facility which was extremely badly needed. I would urge that you reject Senator Newell's motion so that that project can continue in an orderly fashion for the Kearney Campus. Again I would repeat that the money probably is being spent more closely for 309 than any structure in the state because of the circumstances