

substantial portion of this treasure which is the statehouse. And it really is a treasure. There is no building in Nebraska that has the national recognition that this building has and there is no excuse, in my opinion, for this agency, the Legislature or any other agency or the government as a whole to allow the building to deteriorate. And the fact is that portions of the building that are under our responsibility are deteriorating and we need to do something about it. Now the specific projects that this money would be used for would, of course, be determined by the Executive Board and no determination can be made until such time as the Executive Board has money to make some improvement. I can tell you a number of things that would be high on my personal list, whether the Executive Board would approve or not, you can guess as well as I. But I think it is important, for example, that we get the senators off the eighth floor. Year after year they are racked by the problem of the elevators going up and down for calls of the house. I think it doesn't take much imagination for you to see that it is not a good situation to have senators on the eighth floor. We need to do that. The fact of the matter is that every senator does not have a private office. Senators Chizek and Baack are still rooming together in a situation where they don't even have privacy as between their offices, much less as between their staff and themselves. That is not a good situation and we should take care of it. The rest of us have fair situations. They are being treated unfairly, in my opinion. In addition to that, I have had a number of complaints from senators who would like to have private offices, who feel that it is not a good situation to be with the kind of dividers where there is staff and everybody is sitting in their outer office or any lobbyist who bops in can overhear their phone conversations in the next room. There are a number of situations that can be improved without great expense, providing office dividers, floor to ceiling type things that will improve those situations. We have plans for a couple of hearing rooms. Our hearing rooms are deteriorating badly. The Judiciary hearing room is a disgrace. I think anyone who has sat in that room would recognize it as such. It doesn't even have chairs. All it has is folding chairs. The rug has been in there for a century, I think. There is no reason that the elected representatives of this state have to sit long afternoons and into evenings, one day it was one o'clock in the morning, in chairs that are not appropriate. There is no reason that the public has to sit in iron folding chairs.