

May 30, 1985

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asked why I wasn't attending some of the committee meetings, and I said I felt I couldn't come in there because it was like watching a friend being operated on. I was afraid of what I would see and afraid of what would happen to my friend and my friend certainly lost a number of vital organs and included among them are some of the things we tried to place back in but had no success today and also this measure dealing with Sheldon Art Gallery. Sheldon Art Gallery is something many of you are not familiar with. It is perhaps in some of your minds an esoteric effort to try and uplift our art lovers of Lincoln or Nebraska. I see it completely different. I see it as one of the few bright lights in this state that attempts to allow us to reach new heights in terms of our awareness of arts and film and culture that many of us find only on the coasts. It attempts to bring us a little bit of that culture back into our home town here in Lincoln and our Capitol City and is open to all in Nebraska. Sheldon Art Gallery is on the University Campus and it is available to University students, but it is also available to any citizen in the state free of charge. The situation is that I feel any time you start cutting back on a program such as Sheldon, you lose a little bit of the quality of life, the good life that we talk about here and every little nick starts to erode over a period of time and it gets worse as time goes on. Sheldon is very special to me. I was a University student and spent a lot of time there going to films and spending time looking at the art work and I felt inspired by it many different times. I think others have shared that sort of inspiration and I think that to take that away is a real loss to all of us. You know, the cut that we are talking about here would totally eliminate over a two-year period any general fund support for Sheldon Art Gallery. That would virtually shut down Sheldon Art Gallery. As you saw in the article I passed out this morning, the Director has indicated without adequate funding even after this year, July 1 it would shut down and not be able to be continued. The private support that many of you think might arise and come to the rescue is already being sent to the art gallery in terms of purchases of art collection and much of the art work there has been purchased through private support. But that private support depends on public support for the administration for the people, the staff, the people that operate the Sheldon Art Gallery and if we don't invest at least in that much of the Sheldon Art Gallery, it is pretty hard for the private sector to come up with the money for the collection and everything else that

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