

SENATOR ASHFORD: Right, especially in the convention facility portion of it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But are those to be removed as a part of this renovating process?

SENATOR ASHFORD: No, that is why...the music hall is going to be a significant improvement. The arena is going to be a significant improvement, but there will not be any structural changes that will move the posts, so there is going to...and then probably in the future, hopefully, we will be able to do a free-standing convention facility.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, if there are no structural changes, we are talking about only cosmetic changes, aren't we?

SENATOR ASHFORD: No, there are some cosmetic changes, there are some plumbing and electrical changes. The music hall is a big part of it, and that will allow greater usage which will take pressure off of the Orpheum and other facilities.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would this be like plastering or papering over an unsound structure so that it appears to be better than what it actually is, if you take the paper off?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I think the facility, Senator Chambers, is engineer...based on engineers' reports is structurally sound. I think the arena is, certainly the arena and the music hall can be utilized. It can be restored and renovated and utilized. Again, my concern would be the convention center or the convention space.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And how much money do you think it is going to take to do this?

SENATOR ASHFORD: It would cost somewhere between seven...around seventeen million dollars.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And how much money would be raised or is estimated to be raised by the half percent for twelve months?

SENATOR ASHFORD: About, close to 20 million.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And what would be done with the other?