

Damaged building receives priority

daily nebraskan

Nebraska Gov. J. James Exon said Wednesday that the reconstruction of the fire-damaged Plant Industry Bldg. on East Campus is a top priority and said he will consider favorably a supplemental appropriation by the Legislature to cover the costs.

"The day after the fire, I told university officials that we had to have the building back as soon as possible and that they should make whatever repairs necessary," Exon said.

Damage from the Aug. 22 fire has been estimated between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. Additional damage to electrical equipment will total between \$250,000 and

\$400,000, according to Harley Schrader, UNL physical plant director.

T.E. Hartung, dean of the College of Agriculture, said earlier that reconstruction of the building, which contained mainly research and the Horticulture, Entomology and Plant Pathology Departments, will involve replacing the roof and ventilation system.

Officials have said the most serious damage was to the research activity and the flow of agricultural information from researchers to Nebraska's farmers.

"It's such an important building to Nebraska," Exon said. "I'd give its reconstruction first priority."

Exon said the recent budget requests by the university, which call for 30.7 per cent more tax dollars for the university, should not affect the possible supplemental appropriation.

He said he had not seen the line-by-line university budget request, but said the state soon will begin examining all requests from state agencies and seeing how much money is available.

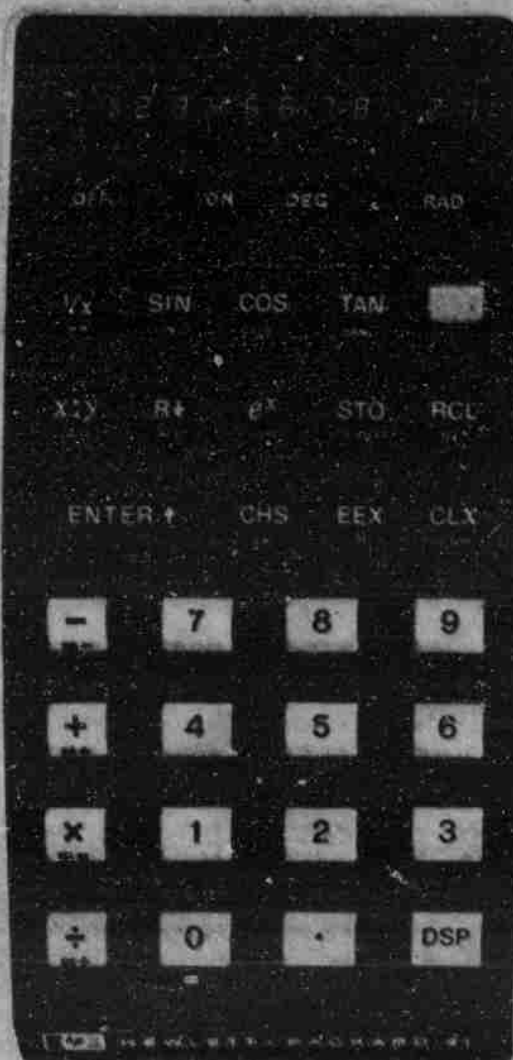
The university had a \$500,000 deductible insurance policy on the building, which will cover much of reconstruction costs.

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