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# Capital Improvement Drives Collide

## King, Pepple Swap Verbal Punches

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COLUMBUS, July 22 — A bipartisan log-rolling raid on Governor Rhodes' capital improvements program for a couple of unpromised projects broke up with angry mutterings last night between two senators from northwestern Ohio.

Some senators, led by Ross Pepple, Lima Republican, have decided that they would like to share in the \$290 million bond issue to build for themselves, among others, private offices in a new \$5 million addition to the Statehouse, although no such venture was ever mentioned to the voters who approved the bond issue May 4.

And Sen. Frank King, Toledo Democrat, has decided that he wants to double the \$7.5 million the governor has earmarked for the new Toledo State College of Medicine.

Other legislators are waiting in the wings with lesser demands as Senator Pepple's finance committee considers

the House-passed capital improvements bill appropriating \$277 million of the bond money.

Before Senator King could effectively marshal his forces last night, Senator Pepple hustled an amendment through his committee by a 4-3 vote to add the money for the additional office space.

Senator Pepple explained that the four-story project would add two wings to the Statehouse annex housing the Supreme Court and fill in space between it and the Statehouse. It would provide an office for each senator and representative, with senators getting bigger offices, as well as room for other elected officials and their staffs, according to Mr. Pepple.

Senator King voted against the project, with the inference that he would change his mind if he got a little support for his project. Mr. King is miffed because Mr. Pepple had dealt with the office building amendment ahead of the medical school amendment which Mr. King had introduced two days ago.

But two other Democrats sided with Senator Pepple.

So Mr. King summoned one of them, Ray Miller, Jr., of Cleveland, into the hallway, and ordered a reinforcement from upstairs.

By this time, Senator Pepple was out in the hall, too, arguing with the Democrats. Returning to the meeting, Senator Miller announced that he had changed his mind about the Pepple project and didn't want to vote for it after all.

But Mr. Pepple refused to recognize him or allow the change to be recorded.

Mr. King kept demanding recognition for Mr. Miller until Senator Pepple finally adjourned the meeting in disgust "until we can have an orderly proceeding."

Back in the hall again, Senator Pepple declared, "Senator King was demanding that I vote his hospital tonight."

Senator King said, "Senator Miller told Mr. Pepple that he would withdraw from his office project if he didn't support the medical school."

"It isn't my project," Senator Pepple retorted. "It's for the Senate. I won't be around here to use it. I'm not going to run for another term. I'm 70 years old."

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