

April 13, 1983

LB 628

all of state government, and those who like to argue reductions, I think we should be specific. If you want to reduce costs at the University, then you should start looking at the issue of reducing colleges and eliminating them. We should do all the things that we like to give lip service to of prioritizing expenditures and we have the ability to do that within the general fund appropriation if we choose to do so.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up. Senator Wesely, then Senator Kilgarin. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, this is a small technical amendment to the bill that Senator DeCamp would have us trust him on but I think Senator Goodrich and Senator Warner have identified that this is no small matter. A \$6 million cut in the University budget has got to draw a little attention from the body. It is one of those "trust me" amendments that I don't think I want to trust Senator DeCamp on. It is clear that a \$6 million cut is irresponsible at this point. Senator Warner has talked about the need to look at the situation further when more information comes in. We all know the problems the University has had in recent years in meeting some of their concerns, the classes that have been cut, the overcrowding that they have experienced, the professors that have left service. All of these different things point to one conclusion, the University is hurting and a \$6 million cut at this point would be again irresponsible. I think Senator Warner will look at the budget for the University, and the overall budget picture, as more information comes in with revenues. I think the time to deal with the issue is not now but at a later date.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kilgarin.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Thank you, Mr. President, and colleagues, I wish all of you would take just a minute to look at Senator DeCamp's amendment to LB 628. I won't support it but I think it points out some things that I have been trying to point out that I have been concerned about for a long time. What his amendment does is it cuts \$6 million from the University's budget and what it says is that we are going to give the Board of Regents a lump sum appropriation to spend as they see fit, and that goes right to the heart of LR 5 which I think you are all familiar with which we discussed on this floor which referred to the 1977 Nebraska Supreme Court case that took some of the control this Legislature had away from us and gave it to the Board of Regents. The amendment points out that, yes, maybe we do have some