

well out and it is a personal belief that should you direct this money to what Senator Vickers proposes you are going to further create the same kinds of problems we have had a number of other times and I think the proposal as presented by the committee is the appropriate way to go. It is one step over a three year...probably a three year program that will finalize the kind of computer opportunity that UNL should have. I think it would be a very serious mistake to not replace that old equipment which is obsolete, running very expensive in terms of maintenance costs and it is essential in terms of what is provided department by department for academic purposes because in part even those machines have to be able to work on the main frame. So I hope you would not adopt Senator Vickers' amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I don't want to pour cold water on anybody's amendments or on Senator Warner's speech but about three weeks ago an employee of the University of Nebraska Medical Center came to me with a file this thick of memorandum that has been going between the administrative offices at the Medical Center to various people that work there and it is about the computer they bought in 1979 or '80. I haven't had a chance to read the file. I only spoke with the woman for about a half hour. Half of it works, the half that I guess they use for the administrative part of the hospital or for the medical part of the hospital and the other half, billing and such, does not work. So for two to three years they have been hiring Kelly girls to come in and do the work that the computer they bought is supposed to be doing. I haven't verified all this yet. I haven't even got to the file but I would suggest that before the University spent any money on computers, they make darn sure that they work and that they are not going to have to hire personnel to come in and do a job manually the computer was supposed to do in the first place. So I can't really support an amendment that says let's spend more money on computers when the University of Nebraska Medical Center obviously spent millions of dollars on a computer that isn't working and when I have gotten this file to the point where I have been able to read through it and verify it, I will come back and tell you hopefully before Final Reading on this bill what is actually going on there. But when I think of the millions of dollars spent on a computer that...and the person that gave me this information was in a position to know and she tells me it is not working and we are paying Kelly girls to do the work, I don't have that much faith in the ability of those people at the University or the Med Center that are purchasing this computer equipment. So maybe we ought to hold off on buying