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LB 386, 389, 858

letters in the word "at". It indicates to me that Senator Tyson reads these things word for word and I'm appreciative of that fact. Mr. Green is an African American. Dean Bruning is a female. In this letter, and I plan to discuss it in greater detail, there have been representations and promises year after year after year by various officials at the university to do something about racial and gender equity at the university. As this letter points out, in 1991 the Board of Regents set some goals. Then, in 1996, President Smith appointed a commission to see how things are coming along, and they are not coming along well at all. Early this year, five perceptive senators from Lincoln drafted a bill, LB 858, whose intent was to take one percent of the university's budget and have it put into a special fund that would go to the recruitment and retention of females and minorities. A gentleman, whose name I would have pronounced "Moser", but I've been told it's pronounced "Meezer", M-o-e-s-e-r, had told the Education Committee hearing this bill that no legislation is necessary, they're going to do the right thing. And the question that immediately came to my mind when I read his remarks, does he mean by "the right thing" that they'll continue to do as they have been doing, making promises to hold people at bay while achieving nothing in the way of substantive correction action? Other administrators had complained that a bill with provisions such as that would hold a portion of the university's budget hostage. I am convinced that females and minority group members have been, in a sense, held hostage through the policies and practices of the university which are discriminatory, unfair and unequitable. So, in addition to moving against LB 386, I'm having an amendment drafted to the mainline budget bill, LB 389, to diminish by \$4,200,000 the university's budget. That would be the amount envisioned by those who cosponsored LB 858 and probably...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the fund would be created and the money would go into that. But I'm of a mind right now to just fine the university \$4,200,000. And I do have some other alternatives. Maybe we'll ultimately hit them with a token fine of \$1 million, but I'm going to get something out of the university's hide this session and LB 386 and (LB) 389 are going to be my instrumentalities. I'm laying out there as bluntly and