

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 20, 1997

LB 386, 389, 858

Legislature, it's going to take me a minute to reorient myself, so my time can be running while I locate this amendment, because I had several on this bill.

CLERK: It's a percentage reduction, if I may, Senator, from 15 million to 10.8 million.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Madam President and members of the Legislature, perhaps none of these amendments will be adopted, but I had stated my determination to take something out of the university's budget. The reason that I settled on this amount was because it would tie into the amendment that we adopted to LB 389. It would approximate 1 percent of the university's budget, which the advisory or intent language in 389 tells what in amount...what an amount equaling this would be used for. I had decided that the approach I would take would deviate from that in LB 858. LB 858 would have kind of put the money in escrow, I believe, and then as these goals were achieved, it would be redistributed or made available to the university. Well, I really don't like the idea of telling somebody who is a miscreant and a wrongdoer that money which would be yours as a reward is going to be laid aside conditionally, that you can get it back if you do what you ought to have done in the first place. My amendment would simply strike \$4.2 million from Senator Brown's heart...I mean from the project which is so close to Senator Brown's heart. I had also stated that I am prepared to do battle on LB 386 until I can get enough of my colleagues to agree to give me something out of the university's budget. I will not push to get 400...I meant \$4.2 million, but I'm going to talk about that for awhile. And if anybody else engages in the discussion, I'm going to start kind of floating around and seeing if I can find an amount which in legal parlance might be deemed nominal damages. With what the Legislature has done already on LB 389, I have to say, Senator Brown, that the flames have been somewhat mitigated. They're still there. But here's what I'm going to propose to you, or ask you. Senator Brown, I'd like to ask you a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Yes, Senator Chambers.