

1973
January 30, 1973

SENATOR SYAS: Well, I mean in the past isn't it true that a Governor, even though we appropriate say a million dollars to a department and he would have the department spend only \$800,000. Isn't that true.

SENATOR MARVEL: That's true.

SENATOR SYAS: So what's the difference between then and now on this one particular argument. The Governor, in my way of thinking, Senator Marvel, has always had this right of not spending our full appropriation of what we have given him, or some Board, maybe the University of Nebraska, the Board of Regents. As I recall, I don't know if they have ever done it but didn't they also have the right that if we'd give them \$40,000,000 and they only spent \$39,000,000 had that right to not take advantage of the full thing on the other hand.

SENATOR MARVEL: Let's simply say they had the right and let it go at that.

SENATOR SYAS: Of course, they would be one that would spend the full amount, I realize that.

SENATOR MARVEL: Well, I think you faced this time, using your example, with two examples. One, Senator Duis presented the other day to us and that is that we appropriated money for a specific purpose despite what the letters may say to the contrary. The Governor through his subordinates decided not to honor that expenditure, so in effect, they were withholding approval of expenditures that were approved by the Legislature. You also will be faced before too long with the other extremes, Senator Syas and that is where the Governor through his subordinates have approved certain expenditures over and above amounts that were approved and indicated, as near as I can determine, that some of these departments that they will front for deficiencies. That's the other extreme. One withholding expenditure of money, secondly spending beyond the agencies limitations and then saying to the agency, we are going to come in and front for a deficiency. So you have two extremes.

SENATOR SYAS: Yes, Senator, I think I'm glad that you brought this up because that's exactly what I was going to say, that in the past--

SENATOR MARVEL: I am glad I read your mind, George.

SENATOR SYAS: Yes, yes you did in this case. In the past, the Governor has always done this both ways. He has either underspent some appropriation that the Legislature has endorsed, that is some Governors have, some departments and also the Governor has and departments have overspent. Some departments have come in here for a deficiency appropriation. That's why I took the floor last week when this bill came in. Senator Marvel, you and I talked about and we're both in agreement of. I said, this is a Governor's bill. He wants this deficit expenditure and I know at that time one Senator said, Well I don't see his name on it. So we got into a little hassle on that but it was still the Governor's bill. When we have always given them the deficiency appropriation. In other words in the past, when the Governors got in a tight spot on the budget, he has always been able to come, whoever it may be, he has been able to come to this Legislature and get a deficiency appropriation. We've said, Ya. So what I'm trying to point out to you, Senators, that I don't see on this one particular thing that there is any change at all, with or without. Now on the new 30 votes that's a different matter and I think he has a line item and we have to overrule him by 30 votes if we want it to continue, but I don't see any change between then and now on this one thing I'm talking about. Now also up on the floor this morning, it came in the building commission and there is other commissions. You know, let's be fair. We create something in this Legislature--a lot of commissions, advisory commissions,