

go with it and this bill, I, I don't know all the ramifications of it and I, I frankly, I don't know the detailed contents of it but I know what the intention of it is. It came from the Retirement Committee and I know one of the horrible things that we have in this State is the miserable retirement system that we have. It's unbelievable. It's absolutely unbelievable. To give an employee with 20 years of service \$20 a month is almost, defies the imagination and this is an attempt to correct it. Now, we want to do something for the little people and the little guy that we often talk about, the little man, this is a good chance.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of the motion? Senator Syas did you wish to be heard on the motion? We're still talking on just the introduction of the bill.

SENATOR SYAS: I understand that and I just wondered if I, to Senator Whitney, from the meetings I have been attending, I don't see how the information I get is just the opposite of what Senator Whitney said about UNO being in favor of this type of thing. When the merger bill was introduced by Carpenter and others, it said that the fringe benefits would never be changed from the program that you already had at UNO, they wouldn't be changed in the future. This bill does change, as I look at it, the UNO fringe benefits; fact is, as I understand it, it lowers it. I don't see how an Omaha Senator, really from, from if I've got it right, can vote to introduce the bill.

SPEAKER: Senator Proud

SENATOR PROUD: I don't know what in the world Senator Syas is talking about. To be quite frank, I don't think he does either. Senator Goodrich is on this Retirement Committee and he spoke to me--he has some reservations about the provision that might keep UNO in here but he tells me that the, as I understand the Regents have agreed to take this out to exclude them and here we are, getting into the merits of a highly important bill and everybody recognizes, I think, it's important, when it hasn't even been introduced. All Senator Whitney is asking is to introduce the bill. There will be a public hearing on it and everything else at which time, if it's not satisfactory to UNO and if it discriminates against UNO, it can be amended and if it still discriminates against them, I'll vote against the bill. He just wants the bill introduced so it can have a public hearing. The Interim Study Committee has spent all kinds of time on this.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, there are two members of the committee that did not sign the bill. One of those members of the committee happens to be me and the other was Senator Goodrich and the failure to sign was for exactly the same problem that Senator Syas has alluded to--that there is some problems with salary relationships between UNO and UNL and probably the only advantage that UNO has over the UNL staff is the fact that their fringe benefit package is a little higher and the figures are basically this; there is \$23 a month in fringe benefits to UNO personnel at this present time. This bill would, in effect, reduce that by \$8 a month and when the salaries are comparable, we start talking about fringe benefits being comparable, but right now, I think this would hurt our people to the tune of about and I'm not real good at math, but almost \$100 a month, \$100 a year Senator Syas. You're absolutely correct.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, if Senator Marvel is here, I see him sitting over there, I'd like to have him make a comment on this particular bill because he's also a member of this