

Retirement Committee and I want this body to know that I'm not circumventing anybody as an individual. I'm not even putting this up as an individual. I'm putting it up as the chairman of the Retirement Committee. I approve of it, however, because I am like Senator Fred Carstens and like Senator Gary Anderson yesterday, I'm in favor of helping these people out who are in the lower bracket particularly.

SPEAKER: Senator Marvel do you care to respond?

SENATOR MARVEL: It is my understanding, first of all, that this bill discusses and would fund fringe benefits which are already in the Governor's budget but there is another point to the bill that you should be aware of and I think Senator Syas referred to it so let's be blunt about it. There have been meetings with University of Nebraska officials in an attempt to get the UNO and the UNL benefits together. This, there has been a lot of talk but there really hasn't been this much in the way of action of results so one of the sidelights of this bill would be to encourage the appropriate university officials to sit down and perform now what they promised the Retirement Committee they would do several months ago and that is to come up with the fringe benefit program which would be fair to both UNO and UNL. Now as I understand this and this is in partial answer, perhaps to Senator Syas, there are certain fringe benefits at the moment that put UNO officials or staff in a better position than UNL and likewise there are certain Lincoln benefits that are better than Omaha benefits and the purpose of the agreement was to bring those two benefits together so everybody was equal. This bill should encourage this so in addition simply to firming up what the Governor's already done in his budget bill and which you will have a chance to either approve or disapprove shortly, this also is another effort to encourage UNL-UNO to get together and get things settled. That's my understanding of the bill.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President and Members of the body. I might be able to shed a little more light on this. The bill as you all know, when it gets introduced and if it gets introduced in other words, would wipe out the fringe benefit program of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and substitute this plan for it. Now, the purpose of including the word "including" in the bill is to force the Board of Regents to vote one way or the other on the adoption of a uniform fringe benefits plan. They are meeting today and tomorrow and sometime during this meeting, they are supposed to act one way or the other on this plan. Now, if they act on the plan, all we have to do with the bill is convert the word "including" to "excluding" and the problem is solved. This particular bill is being introduced about one or two days in, prior to when it should be introduced, because if the Board of Regents takes action, favorable action on this plan that they're considering, then there is no problem with the bill. They will have a uniform fringe benefit plan between the campuses. The fringe benefit plan has been worked out. We have the details of it and it has been distributed between the faculty senates. They were to respond by the 28th of February, then the Board of Regents could take action one way or the other when they meet on the 2nd which is today or tomorrow because they are meeting both days and if they take action and it's favorable, then there is no problem with the bill. If they don't take action, that's what given birth to most of the objection of the bill on the floor here today.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Just one statement, Mr. President and fellow Members. This, I'm in favor of this bill. It brings equity so that we don't have some employees getting a \$10,000 policy or a \$5,000 policy and someone across the hall getting nothing. This will bring equity to all employees, fairness.