

SPEAKER: Chair next recognizes Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Well, first of all, I have not had an opportunity to read the bill and I have been told that there is now a group organizing in the University of Nebraska at Omaha to bring a lawsuit over the loss of another fringe benefit that apparently some of those people feel was being taken away and I'm not sure whether this does or doesn't add to that problem or whether it is or isn't equitable but since I am of the opinion and knowledge that they are already organizing to bring a lawsuit, I think if we could, I would like to have the bill distributed to us so that we might have a day or so to look it over, the weekend and then at least comment on it next Monday and perhaps by that time the Board of Regents will have met and maybe there isn't a problem but I don't think we want to force lawsuits if we can avoid it and I think they are already talking about having some benefits loss so I would like to have this bill if we could, with Senator Whitney's permission, distributed to all of us and then take a look at it Monday.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. I'm a member of the Retirement Committee, and the very idea of introducing this bill is to make certain these parties get together and do come out with some sort of a equitable solution to the problem of the retirement benefits at UNO and UNL. This is a must. I am as much interested in UNO and UNL as any of the Legislators from the City of Omaha, but the only what it's going to be done is if they see that this bill is on general file and that we mean business; that we are going to do something about making equitable these retirement benefits to all the employees of the State of Nebraska. Yesterday, I reiterate what Senator Carstens said; yesterday we stood up here and I haven't heard these same voices speaking today for the little man that works for the State of Nebraska, the fellow that's interested in these fringe benefits. No one's up here today that was speaking so loudly about this yesterday but I'm going to speak for them. This is a bill to help the fringe benefits of the little man that works for the State of Nebraska. This is a bill that gives them something they don't have to pay income tax on which is something else that some of these people are vitally interested in and here we are talking about a problem at UNO. Let them bring all the lawsuits they want. Those will be decided in the courts. We have our work cut out for us here. We have a decision to make and I think we ought to make it. The way to do it is to put this bill before us and to get it on general file.

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Luedtke if he'd yield to a question.

SPEAKER: Senator Luedtke, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Certainly would.

SENATOR STAHMER: Well I yield to no one in seeking equity. I think the main cornerstone of our law is equity and, in fact, if there is ever any places where inequities are built in, be they to anyone's advantage, we ought to try to rectify them but I would further ask whether in your opinion we should try to seek equity not only in fringe benefits but equity in salary too in that those people with the same experience, the same degree, the same background, will get the same pay at both campuses, then let's not talk just about fringe benefits, let's talk about the employees themselves. Would you also favor this?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: I not only favor it, I think that the University administration favors it and I think they're getting it.