

May 1, 1979

LB 587

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the amendment. Obviously, if you're looking for places to make reductions, you have to look in those areas where major expenditures are made, and obviously in the area of postsecondary education, if you include the University, state colleges and the community colleges, that's a major area of expenditure. It would seem to me that it's not prudent to make reductions in operating funds, if you have other alternatives where reductions might be more appropriately made, and when you read where there are some classes...some programs rather in which enrollments are growing to make a reduction of this magnitude at this time would seem to be ill-advised. Obviously one could respond that the University ought to reallocate or redirect some of their available funds where they have those kind of problems. Within limits we certainly have been encouraging that to be done, and within limits I think they can do that, and I think they probably can do more. I am also of the opinion that this year's budget as recommended by the Committee, they're going to have to do more, because they will not be able to handle some of the growth areas without eliminating some programs at the level that the Committee has recommended to you. But I am sure that if Senator Murphy's amendment was adopted you would be eliminating far more than that, and I think its affect would not be one that would be advisable or advantageous to the students who are attending the University, or the research that is going on at the University, or any number of the other activities that one can identify. The cash receipts appear to go up...are on the increase in the University about around five percent. It's true that the appropriation is a little over seven percent, but that is not an appreciable increase in relation to what they ask, but it's consistent with what we are recommending for the total budget to go up, and it's likely that that's about where you would end up with a big portion of the total budget that comes from that area. The other issue that really is before us I suppose, if we're looking for ways to keep down the state appropriation, do you make cuts in state operation, or do you make cuts in aid funds? And it seems to me that if you carry the title of state senator you have a responsibility of looking first...looking first at those responsibilities, financial responsibilities that the State of Nebraska has as opposed to some of the other programs, many of which I have supported in the past, and would perhaps like to support again, but in times of keeping budgets tight as the recommendations of the Appropriations Committee most certainly do for this year, it's ill-advised, I think, to accept an amendment then as proposed