

May 1, 1979

LB 587

Merz, I'm in the same somewhat situation that you are inasmuch as I have a smaller college in my area. Now as I understand 587, also included in that same bill are the four state colleges. You are willing to accept the four percent reduction in the overall budget. Would you be willing to accept a four percent in the Peru budget?

SENATOR MERZ: Yes, I will. If the state can stand it, I'm sure Peru will take it, too.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay, thank you. That's all I wanted to hear.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise in very strong opposition to the Murphy amendment, and to other attempts that will be made by other senators on this floor to try and cut drastically the University of Nebraska budget. I think that there is room for reallocation there. I think that there's a way that that money could be better spent, but I honestly believe that under the circumstances that the University of Nebraska faces for next year, that a cut of the magnitude as proposed by Senator Murphy would in fact be a tragedy... a tragedy to the University of Nebraska, because that's a tremendous amount of money, and they're already faced with the situation where even if the budget is approved as written, as before the Legislature, they're facing, at least on the campus of Lincoln, in the University system, a deficit, in talking to the administration there, of about one point six million dollars. That is to say that they don't know how they're going to meet about one point six million dollars of expenses that they anticipate, that they expect that they know will be there, and this is all on top of a situation that has the fact that the faculty at the University of Nebraska will probably not receive a five and a half percent increase. They will not in any way, shape or form get a seven percent increase as other state employees will have. They will be lucky...they will be lucky if they get that five and a half percent increase, and that's going to take a lot of doing. That's going to take some cash funds. It's going to take some fees on labs. It's going to take some program cuts. Not all of that is going to be bad. I think that there's room to cut. I think there's room to save money. I don't disagree with that, but on the magnitude of four million dollars. The end result would be that all this talk, all this rhetoric about the Harvard of the plains, well we can just cast that