

May 1, 1979

LB 587

aside and let it flow down the river, because it's never going to come back...not at four million dollars. I know in talking to the University and being a part of that University for years, I know what effect just a four hundred thousand dollar cut had down there. Where were those cuts from years past? What it meant in different programs and classes, and services. Maybe they weren't essential. The University has survived. But it took a little bit away from that quality. It took a little bit away from the edge that the University had of really moving forward and improving, and actually striving toward that goal that we all talk about, toward excellence... an excellent University, something we can be proud of, something more than a football factory, something more than a football factory. Well it would be nice to continue to move in that direction, and it's an outstanding goal to have because of resources that we have in this state. I don't think anything is more precious than our educational system, and especially our higher educational institutions. What are we proposing with the Murphy amendment? We're going to hear time and time again this afternoon on this bill, that the University has too much, that they don't have the students that they had in the past, and that's a mistake. They've increased enrollment. They have more students than in the past...evidently about fifteen hundred more students in the past five years, and yet we want to cut their budget. I'm not going to get up here and tell you that the University will die as a result of this cut, or that tremendous changes that will take place will not be irreparable, but I think it's going to hurt. It may not be a mortal wound, but it will be close to it, and I think that you're not going to find that flexibility and that little pot of gold that's sitting somewhere, and that's just waiting for someone to put into the resource of the University and make the ends meet, and give the faculty the large salary they need...buy the chiller, buy this, and buy that. They don't have that pot of gold. Maybe they had it five or six years ago. They don't have it now. My experiences as graduate assistant at the University and as a student there are such that I think we're going in the reverse of where we need to go, not cutting four million dollars, rather looking toward ways that we can direct money more efficiently, more effectively. There may be even a need for more money. I think the faculty would agree to that, but I'm not going to even propose that or suggest that at this time. We don't have the money, but certainly it would be a serious mistake and again I think a tragedy if we would approve the Murphy cut, or some of the others that will be proposed. I ask