

May 1, 1979

LB 587

CLERK: (Read the Murphy amendment to LB 587 as found on Page 1780 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Murphy. Senator Murphy is closing on his amendment.

SENATOR MURPHY: Well, ladies and gentlemen, I could scarcely expect an undergraduate instructor to share my viewpoint, nor any of the other twenty-two hundred undergraduate instructors who do most of the teaching at the University, but the thing that does concern me is that they will spend totally well over two hundred million dollars. This is scarcely a fatal blow, and I would ask those who protest, and who explain that the University is doing all possible to cut its expenditures and its growth...which courses have been eliminated in the last five years? Which colleges, such as the Century Campus...Centennial Campus, if you will...the come if you want, go if you want, take a test if you want campus? This is the sort of thing that they are continuing in the face of the request of the people of this state that we stop spending their money. They could care less, because they will come in here and as the University of the State of Nebraska, and Lord knows, I wish it were greater and better, and finer in every respect, but the fact of the matter is, we are not attracting students to that University. We are picking up many of them and funding them in Voc Tech areas, and this is an additional expense, and I say the best way to get the University to orient its priorities, and to do that which they promise year after year, after year, that they're going to do next year, is to reduce the funding to a degree. Now Senator Marsh proclaims that the Appropriations Committee studied, and I'm without any qualification or question in agreement with that statement. That Committee does work hard. But they cut and they cut, and they cut. What did they cut? A foolishly ridiculous request for funds, and when they were all through cutting and cutting, and cutting, they still had better than a seven percent increase in an institution that is serving six percent less people. I say the way to bring about some priority, and to have compassion, not for the University, but for those who elected you to come down here and act responsibly, is for the Legislature to take the step that it apparently must take in order to prompt the University to do what it must do. This is not New York City. This is not San Francisco. This is not a state of umpteen million people. This is a state of one and a half million people, and we are contributing more to the category of higher education than all but nine other states. We rank