

May 1, 1979

LB 587

on the Newell amendment? Senator Newell, do you wish to close? Senator Marsh, your light has not been on. Senator Newell, do you wish to close?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I would. I'd like to respond very specifically to Senator Warner's comments as to why this money should not be stricken from the University budget. You know it's a nice proposal to suggest that what we do is to put it in the intent bill. Now intent, as we all know, does not mean anything to the University. You see, the University has now gotten from the Supreme Court the right to spend monies any old way they want to spend monies. So intent means nothing. So to suggest as Senator Warner does that we can strike this money...or we can kill the SUN program, which is absolutely useless, and far too expensive for any benefits that there are, to suggest that we would put it in the intent bill is absolutely useless, because it will not in fact accomplish the task. Senator Warner spoke to this point by saying that, you know all these monies goes to the University, and he's talking about a seven percent increase. Well I'd like to speak to that for a moment. First of all, the University's budget into this bill is seven point one percent, and then...and then, you know, there is another bill coming along called the supplemental bill that will add additional dollars to the University's budget, and that adds up to far more than seven percent or the lid that Senator Warner is talking about. The SUN program was supposed to be self-supporting. It is not. The Appropriations Committee put in 123,428 dollars specifically for the SUN program. That's how they build their budget. That's how they determined how we get to that magic number that is...will be spent by the University for whatever they want to spend it on. For that reason we ought to take out 123,428 because it does not...they have not lived up to their promise, because it is far too expensive on a per credit hour basis, because that is the only way to explain...to show true legislative intent, true legislative intent to the University...take the money away. Don't tell them, please don't spend it in that way. You have to take the money away. A 123,428 dollars is peanuts to the University's budget. It's over a 107 million dollars, this is not a major accomplishment like Senator Murphy's proposal. This is a minor little philosophical victory. If we take this money, it is a small philosophical victory. We say to the University, yes, you have won. You can spend the money any way you want to, but the only power this Legislature has is to deny you money, even if it is a measly 128,000 out of a 107 million dollar budget.

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