

May 1, 1979

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information coming to you. Let me try to do this without being livid as I am in terms of the shabby relationship between the University and this Legislature. Let me tell you the chagrin I had first of all when the Regents expended public money to sue this Legislature in terms of responsibility a couple years ago, and saying we ought to stay out of their business, and we ought to conduct ourselves according to the rules of the game. You now have, or you will have shortly in your hands, the Regents' desire to preempt the Legislature in terms of capital construction, and I don't want to talk about the merits of the piece of project before us. The University decided to move forward with buying a chiller last November, and signed a contract to that effect, and then put in the necessary language to provide for penalties in case we didn't live up to the contract. I have discussed in my normal, gentle way with members of the Regents and with members of the administration. They have told me absolutely they exceeded their authority limit...they exceeded their authority level in terms of making that kind of a contract relationship. They've couched that with that it was good business practice. They've couched that with well that appeared to be the thing to do. This is not an Appropriation issue now. It's an Appropriation issue to the Regents maybe, but to me it's a personal issue as to whether the Legislature will determine the priorities as designed for capital outlet, or if the Regents will, and since they started making the big fuss first, so I'm going to make it now. That was absolutely a violation of the authority. That was absolutely a violation of what they should operate with, and they know it, but you know why they did that? Because they think you're stupid. They think that you don't have any thought processes. They think that they can do anything they want to, and come over here and pat you in appropriate places on your body, and you're going to go right along with them. I highly resent that. So if that chiller is so important, and I think we ought to buy it now, then we ought to take it from those that can pay for it. My amendment suggests that half of that money be paid for by the Central Administration of the University of Nebraska, and the other half coming from the Ag Institute. I'm flexible on the latter, but not on the former. I think Senator Lamb has a friendly amendment, which I certainly intend to support...maybe not to take so much out of the Ag Institute, but you know obviously with those kind of decisions being made, we probably don't need that much Central Administration if they make those kind of sloppy decisions. I doubt if it will hurt their program at all. If they've got people over there making fifty to sixty to

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