

May 14, 1979

LB 591, 594

CLERK: 27 ayes, 9 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Warner's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the amendment is adopted. All those in favor of advancing 591 to E & R for engrossment say aye, opposed no. Motion carried. The bill is advanced. Next bill is 594.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner moves to return LB 594 to Select File for a specific amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner on the amendment to 594. I think all legislators should have a copy of this.

SENATOR WARNER: Copies are being passed out, Mr. President. The only change that we are proposing, there are two items in LB 594 with the net reduction of \$341,822 for '79-'80 and the net reduction of \$564,180 for '80-'81 or the total being taken out of the bill here would be right at \$900,000 for the two years. Again what we are taking out is the Ag-Engineering Building but there is language instructing the regents to continue with the completion of the plans to prepare for the specifications out of the \$200,000 miscellaneous renovation money which they have and we are going to request that you reinsert the chiller and I want to make these explanations. There has been a great deal said about the chiller. It is a fact that the Appropriations Committee had the opportunity back in February and the request to act on at that time to avoid the penalty but because we were concerned with staying within all of the perimeters that we knew the Legislature ought to stay within, we did not make that decision at that time. The chiller, notwithstanding all that has been said, was an authorization in last year's appropriation bill for the university to put together something. The contract they signed was in such a fashion that the Legislature could have said no with no problem. The real issue behind it of course is the fact that it reduces the current operating cost of what they have on an annual basis of almost \$150,000 and as energy costs go up that reduction may even be greater. The full amount for this year at \$463,180 and \$1,091,000 for '80-'81 would be contained in the amendment but I think that the committee's feeling is that since cuts have to be made and that since this project sooner or later has got to be done, the chillers are aged between thirteen to fourteen years of age. The average life span is from fifteen to twenty so a replacement is imminent in short order in any event. The next highest bid for the chiller unit itself was about \$225,000 higher than the bid that was pending. It seems to