

May 14, 1979

LB 594

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, here is the opportunity of this body to go on record if they really want to save the state some money. First of all, 924 is the renovation of the Eppley Institute, \$750,000 for this fiscal year and a total amount for the next fiscal year of obligation would be \$2,241,500. Normally this is not my character, to go against an institution where I think they offer certain benefits to the mankind of the State of Nebraska but if we are all so concerned about chipping away at \$351,000 here and \$70,000 there, then we ought to get down to the real issues. The real issue is where do you save the State of Nebraska money and I submit to you this is one section when you strike it you are saving money this fiscal year and the next fiscal year in the area of almost \$2,300,000. The Eppley Institute Library, a lot of this is for offices. Obviously the individuals who preside there, who work there, need some additional or different office spaces. I submit to you that we can better spend our money at this day and age particularly if we, as a state, want to live under 7%, this is the place to start saving it. Those kinds of things can wait a while until this state has the economic vitality to carry out the proposed renovation and the addition. For those of you who are concerned that I am striking in my own back yard and that is true because many of my constituents work at Eppley. Many of them do. If you don't believe it you should be on the private conference I have had with certain individuals lately over the leadership of Eppley. Some Senators have been involved in it and I haven't been publicly but I found out how many of my constituents work there. That is not the point. Whether we renovate Eppley or not those individuals will still carry on the mission of cancer research because all you need is a laboratory that is up to date, modern, and human resources to take care of it. You don't need additional dollars for brick and mortar. So I merely want to put you on record this morning. How much do you really want to save? A moment ago Senator Warner was talking about how bad we need a livestock barn at the state fairgrounds and I also believe in the livestock industry but that is primarily used as a once a year deal for a state fair. So now we are getting down to where the courage of this body really rests. How much do you really want to save? It is obvious that the leadership of this body has made up their mind but I also want to give the rest of us a chance who have an equal vote to voice our concerns and this is your opportunity to voice your concern. I ask you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland.