

March 12, 1980

LB 817

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, will you respond to a question from Senator Kremer?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Would you be willing, if you will turn to the bill, on page six, do you have it?

SENATOR NEWELL: Go ahead, Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: On page six, line eleven, beginning with the word "but" would you be willing to strike the language "but not less than the amount contributed by the state on January 1, 1980"?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Kremer. . . .

SENATOR KREMER: My vote to bring it back for reconsideration depends upon your willingness to adopt this amendment. I do not have the amendment up there, but I will put it up there, but I want to get a commitment from you before I vote on your proposition.

SENATOR NEWELL: I. . . as I understand this, this provision was put in so that the university employees would not feel that they were going to lose something. I don't know if that would cause me any great grief. I think that it will be opposed by some in the body, but I would support your motion if you are asking for my support.

SENATOR KREMER: That amendment was put on the bill, you do not find this on the green copy, why was it put on there?

SENATOR NEWELL: There were a number of university employees who had indicated to the retirement committee, as I understand it, that they feared that someday there would be a desire on the part of the university to actually reduce, to go below the present levels and they wanted some guarantee in law that that would not happen. As I understand it, that is what the provision is for.

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Newell, I can understand that, but can we guarantee any of the rest of us that the economy is going to hold up in our area of concern so that we can tie everything to last year or the year before? This concerns me greatly. Why should we commit ourselves to tying something to 1981 when we have no idea what the economy is going to be like in 1982 or 1983, and believe me it doesn't look very prosperous at this point?