

March 12, 1980

LB 817

light is on. I recognize you.

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator Newell, a question if I may.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: How much did the State of Nebraska pay in pension benefits on behalf of these two institutions this past year?

SENATOR NEWELL: I do not know, Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: So we are going to increase by an unknown amount an unknown figure.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Murphy, this bill only increases the maximum, at this point, that can be contributed. That still will be a completely budgetary decision on behalf of the University which they will have to make out of existing funds. Their appropriations will not be increased in any way to do this. This bill will allow for some flexibility. I, like you, had that concern, but my concern on Final Reading, when I voted with you, Senator Murphy, to kill the bill, was that it was too open ended. I think an 8% ceiling moving from 6% to 8% allows for some flexibility by the University and at the same time does not take the ceiling off. That is why I am now moving to reconsider and add these amendments.

SENATOR MURPHY: Well in that category I would remind you that the federal government since 1917 has had a lid on its national debt and they biannually lift that lid and move it higher but just for the record, just for the record, the appropriation of monies last year for pensions for these people was a very tidy sum of 13½ million and you want to raise that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Were you asking a question or making a statement, Senator Murphy? Okay, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I bring to your attention what Senator Newell has stated that this is not a budgetary bill, that this is an authorization bill. This authorizes the University to pay more pensions and he is suggesting very strongly that there will be no monies flowing into this program because the Legislature will not appropriate money for coming up to this ceiling. Be aware again that there is a million dollars that is not in the budget because of the action that this Legislature took on 817 on Final. There was funding in our budget, a million