

April 23, 1981

LB 560

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I move the bill be advanced. Again this includes the appropriation for the Nebraska Coordinating Commission, the State Colleges, the University of Nebraska, and again perhaps it is best, I would be glad to respond to any questions relative to the budget. The same general policies that were in effect for all agencies that I have described, the increase in salary compensation was at the same nine percent level. There is a one percent level of distribution for fringe benefits for higher education. Those areas generally where adjustments were made in any of the agencies budgets for increases would have reflected usually education in an area that would generally be either in the area of engineering or related to computer or in computer sciences or related to bus. ad. as a generalization. There would be one or two other isolated cases where adjustments were made for expansion in other areas but the general philosophy of the committee was to give emphasis to academic educational programs for any expansion money.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Clerk has an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Johnson, Vard Johnson moves to amend the bill. (Read Johnson amendment as found on page 1544, Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, my amendment is a very simple amendment that would, in effect, take about \$250,000 out of LB 560. It is monies that at this juncture have been earmarked for the University of Nebraska Central Administration. Now my purpose in this amendment is really very straightforward and it is very simple. I have a certain sense of indignation about what has been happening to university people in Omaha in conjunction with the negotiational process for some fair pay, for some fair pay to our faculty people in Omaha, and the faculty in Omaha has felt sufficiently maltreated over the last two years that it has formed an organization to negotiate with the Board of Regents for a respectable salary, for some halfway decent money. And at virtually every turn in the negotiational process the Board of Regents and the Central Administration have thwarted the efforts of the faculty for any kind of financial justice and we now have people in Omaha in our university that are leaving the system, that are declining to give the system their full productivity simply because they can't get a respectable wage. The university faculty in Omaha has not had a salary increase since September of 1979 notwithstanding, notwithstanding the fact that you and I have appropriated money, that we have appropriated money