

April 1, 1985

LB 215

PRESIDENT: Is Senator Hall around? Senator Goodrich, go ahead.

SENATOR GOODRICH: I'll move the E & R amendments to 215.

PRESIDENT: You've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye, opposed no. Motion carried. The E & R amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, I then have an amendment pending from Senators Beutler and Warner. That amendments is on page 996 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: A Beutler and Warner amendment pending. If we can have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) Senator Beutler. We are on LB 215.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'm sorry everybody is not here yet because I think that everybody should come and listen on this particular discussion because this particular amendment really does involve the setting of a precedent in the area of retirement that whether you believe one way, or whether you believe the other, really deserves some very thoughtful consideration by all involved. LB 215 does four or five different things with regard to the retirement system that is applicable to the teachers in Omaha. And several of those things...several of those provisions are good provisions. They are provisions that are in accordance with the principles of the Retirement Committee as they have been brought down to us by the Retirement Committee over the years. I have no objection to most of the provisions in LB 215. But there is one provision, and this provision is the subject of the amendment. In fact, the amendment strikes this provision. That provision is found on page 14 of your bill, in lines 3 through 16. That is essentially the provision that provides for an automatic annual cost of living increase, built in to the retirement system for the Omaha teachers. Early retirement provisions and COLA provisions are simply two provisions that I, personally, have not been able to bring myself to accept. There is no early retirement involved here, but there is this particular COLA provision, which I think is of some concern. It is true that with regard to this particular bill, the Omaha teachers retirement system, very little actually of state funds, almost no state funds are involved. It is not really