

SENATOR HOAGLAND: And that it is not at all unreasonable to impose this tuition increase on the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I do support the efforts undertaken by this amendment with the exception of the \$1.3 million cut for the University. As Senator Warner talked about, it is not clear what that really means or where it comes from or why that figure is used and so I think it is unclear about the actual intent there. But I would like to talk a bit about the University budget just for a minute to talk about some misconceptions and maybe a little bit about the information that Senator Beutler passed out about percentage increases in the budget. I think the University is obviously always at the end of the session the one everybody talks about being the big sister on the block and being able to be attacked with vigor. But, clearly, the University over the last five or six years hasn't fared as well as it did back in the early seventies. The figures from Senator Beutler would indicate very clearly to you that that is the case. If you look at those figures and you total them up in the way that you ought to and not just add up percentages, which is evidently what was done for the totals Senator Beutler passed around, you will see that for the first five years of the handout, which would be '72 to '78, the University of Nebraska increase in budget was 114 percent, while the consumer price index went up 42 percent. It is not quite but almost three times as great an increase in the University budget as an increase in the consumer price index. So the University did do well in the early seventies and the mid-seventies and there is no doubt about it. Why that is, I don't know. I wasn't here and I don't know exactly what was going on other than the economy was strong and there was a merger between UN-O and the Med Center and the University of Nebraska Lincoln and the University was well supported. But since that time, since '78 on to '84 under the figures given by Senator Beutler, things haven't been quite as well in terms of the University budget. For those set of years the consumer price index went up 42 percent, but the...excuse me, the consumer price index went up 49 percent, almost 50 percent for that period of time, but the University of Nebraska budget went up 37 percent. That is to say that the budget increase for the University was less than the consumer price index. Now I