

wish to speak on Senator Hoagland's motion?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would rise to oppose the amendment. I would have seen a lot of...I could have been very understanding had the amendment just included the three agencies. That I would have understood. But I don't think much of the sweetener, obviously to draw a couple more. I know it doesn't make any difference. In fact, if I say this, it probably ought to get another vote or two. But I was a little curious how come UN-L's was only partially restored that...the fact of intercollegiate athletics, but that is neither here nor there. The point is we said it time and time again the Board of Regents, Board of Trustees have the flexibility to reallocate it some other way if they choose to do so. This is a rationale for reducing the budget. Now if it is easier to reduce the budget, then eliminate the science class or English class or whatever, or probably the easiest way is say let's take a percentage and pretend that doesn't affect anything. That is another route. I don't say intercollegiates are unimportant activity, but if I have to have a rationale to reduce the budget, then a rationale that deals with a prioritizing what I would think is most important in the educational institutions is education. If the institutions themselves believe that something else is less important than athletics, why then they can choose to do it under the system that we appropriate for. But I am not at all uncomfortable saying that the academic program is most important. I was one of two or three people that did not, or four, I don't remember how many, that didn't vote for the Sports Complex at UN-L. It is a beautiful facility. But that wasn't my first priority for \$20 million and I guess I feel no different here. Now if anybody thinks that you are going to restore this amount of money to these campuses and not have them reduced when it leaves this Chamber, you are kidding yourself. You will have done nothing because they will be reduced. And as a matter of fact, I almost suspect I can guarantee it for a variety of reasons. But, in any event, I would urge that you not return the bill for this amendment and mostly my opposition rests with item (d) on the list because you will not...you will not be restoring that amount of money to the university...or the state college system, in my opinion. It may be a different amount. It may be a little more, may be a little less, but that amount will not be there when the fiscal year starts July 1.