

May 13, 1975

SPEAKER: Amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Read Mahoney amendment.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Mahoney

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. Speaker, members of the legislature, I know that the hour is late, and this really in a nut shell has this effect. It would extend back into the money that we have originally porportioned out of the budget committee of \$10,000 and extend the \$90,000 to it so that we could receive from the benefactor in Omaha a \$100,000 which would be the complete planning money the monies that would have to do with getting back a total of five million over the next few years and would begin to allow the financing for the down town campus of the University of Omaha. The reason for the campus is this. Very simply it amounts to that in this area, the people who would use it are so many varied different groups and some of the groups that we would talk about are people who are part of the office environment which are in the area and it would take in accounting, it would take in the areas of people that are interested in banking. It would be a schooling for labor groups, and it would take in almost every element that we have in a down town metropolis and with the legislature approval of putting back the \$90,000 we can be sure that the benefactor will provide over the next five years the monies that would bring about the campus construction of over 5 million dollars of the University system.

SPEAKER: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: This matter was thoroughly discussed in committee and it was determined that there were two items that would be studied and that is as far as it would go. One was the plans for the parking at UNO and the other was this item. I ask the Legislature to reject the motion.

SPEAKER: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, I'm in strong support of this amendment. They are something like 5 million dollars and we have to keep that money and there are a variety of reasons why I support this amendment. One of the reasons is and maybe some of the rural Senators were not informed, we do have a River Fund Development Program running for Omaha which involves a total reconstruction of down town Omaha. This is a vital and central part of that program. I as a Senator living on the out-skirts of Omaha am vitally interested in that kind of reconstruction. Of course we can not continue spreading into suburbans. We don't have the fuel or energy to do that. We certainly can not give any more valuable land for that either. We have to redirect Omaha and this is what Omaha wants to do. It wants to reconstruct down town. Drive around there sometime and look it over. It certainly is not the pride of Nebraska as it looks now. This is a total education center and it would certainly help to revitalize down town Omaha. Another reason is that there are a variety of educational groups