

March 25, 1976

SENATOR KELLY: Fine. Now with that idea in mind that we've got \$1 million worth of property that we're transferring and using \$300,000 of it immediately, how does this little, small item of \$40,000 upset the proposition?

SENATOR BURROWS: I don't know that it would, but I think....

SENATOR KELLY: Thank you very much Senator Burrows. I don't know that it would either. It would appear to me that.... It would appear to me that the University would be very tickled to take their responsibilities for their decisions and not move those on over to the southeast Nebraska taxpayers. I support the Cavanaugh amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd like to correct the amount, it's \$50,000. It will be at least \$50,000 because that's what it had been running ... \$2,000 ... pardon me, over \$4,000 a month while it was sitting empty. You can imagine the upkeep and the costs when it cost this much to maintain empty buildings.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis. Senator Cavanaugh, do you want to close debate on this matter?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I'll ask Senator Burrows a question. Senator Burrows, the cost is \$50,000?

SENATOR BURROWS: ... going back say a couple months, I may have picked a figure that's two months old on the \$40,000. It may be \$50,000 at the time of transfer.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Would you accept an amendment not to exceed that? Not to exceed \$40,000? I think it's considerably more than that from.... I've sent for my file and my file would indicate that it would be quite a bit more than that. You're talking about picking up all of the costs, right? The insurance, the maintenance, the heat, the utilities, the security.

SENATOR BURROWS: This is the way I understand it, yes.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Now, Senator Burrows, you say that I want to spank the University or the Foundation. We're talking about the Foundation which is not a public agency, not a public body, it's supported by private contributors, it's supported by.... This decision was made by their Board of Trustees to acquire this for their benefit. They had the beneficial use of that property for a year. Now you want your taxpayers in southeast Nebraska to pay that private Foundation for the benefit that they had for the year. Now I think you've got to explain to the people that you represent why they should pay that money to a private foundation, who had the use of the property when you have nothing. It's just not the way business is transacted. Now see you're taking a white elephant off their hands, you're taking something ... a piece of property that they can't do anything with, that they are embarrassed about and you're paying them for the costs that they incurred in the past year when your people, the taxpayers of southeast Nebraska, had no beneficial use for that property. I don't think that you can sell that, Senator Burrows.