

May 11, 1979

LB 587

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Newell moves to return LB 587 to Select File for specific amendment. Read amendment as offered on page 2071, Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, the proposed amendment is the one I spoke about yesterday and basically I was intending to put it on the intent language as opposed to try to amend these bills. However, what has happened is that it is determined that it would be wise to put it on both of these two bills and the intent language. Let me explain kind of briefly what we are talking about here. We are talking about striking from the committee's language that says that 7% will be given across-the-board with certain exceptions and those exceptions are administrative and supervisory and professional employees. Now those are three categories and I have said many times, and Senator Reutzel offered an amendment earlier this year that was very similar to this that would have made it straight across-the-board, that there are some differentiations in terms of proposals and I am offering only to take and strike that word "professional", leaving it apply then to administrative and supervisory employees but not professional employees and the rationale is simply this. What has happened in many cases in state government is, and I am not going to reiterate the old arguments or not to any great extent anyways the old arguments that there is favoritism and those kinds of things but what happens is simply this. Let's take a faculty member at one of the state colleges or at the University. What happens is that the University determines that instead of giving a flat seven percent cost of living increase, that what they do instead is give a four percent cost of living increase, and with this provision, we allow them three percent of those total dollars that is aimed or directed at going to salaries to be spent at the discretion of the administration. Now supposedly it is for salaries - but I am never sure that that really happens. But they take this three percent and they can give certain employees ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty percent while other employees get nothing. So what has traditionally happened at the University is simply this, that they have a program and it is sort of an extenuation of the old publisher parish philosophy of the University. If you publish, then what happens is that you are more likely to get awarded these funds. Now the process of doing this is that you are given those funds but they don't become just a grant, they don't become just a one year, "You did a good job, Joe". They