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LB 101A

able merit and I think we should all be sensitive to the needs of those individuals that are hearing impaired here in the State of Nebraska but I think that we should use a little caution in establishing initially a commission that requires this amount of funding in its first year and I would only bring to the attention of the body a proposal last year that we, as a majority, adopted which was \$87,000 and this year, my friends, it is three and a half million dollars.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President and members of the body, we spent about two hours here on \$120,000. When we pick up the appropriation for the University which will be about \$115,000,000 it will take about ten seconds to whack it down through here like nobody has seen. Who is going to check how many professors that draw 40 to \$70,000? How many people are going to check their salaries and here we can't even have two people stand up and look after the blind people or the deaf people. Two people were complaining about where are we going or where have we been. I think it is about time that we take a look at what is going on around here. Two hours over...people harassing. To me we are doing nothing but harassing some people that are trying to make a living for themselves. They are some of the most innocent, conscientious people I have ever met and here we are harassing them because we can't spend \$120,000 on them. I can't say no more. Goodbye.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Do I get a chance on his amendment?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labeledz, are you ready to close on the motion to...

SENATOR LABEDZ: No, I am not closing. This is Senator Hefner's amendment so I just want to say we do approve and support Senator Hefner's amendment. I want to remind the members of the Legislature that we started out with a budget of \$250,000. The director will only receive \$14,000. That is not asking too much for a director that will have to know the sign language, be able to deal with the deaf people. The interpreter counsellor will only receive \$10,921. The biggest expense is setting up an office. We are talking about a typewriter, supplies. They have to pay rent. They have no place to go. That is only \$5,686 a year. The equipment is \$3,971 but we are talking about direct services. That is what is going to cost money.