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LB 587

SENATOR LEWIS: But not required by them.

SENATOR WARNER: The indication is that it would be our intent that the guideline is followed. Now it would be correct that the constitution would not...and as I understand it the Supreme Court decision would not permit us to specifically designate, and the problem is we can designate the general fund money, but many salaries are paid from a multiple of sources, and so you can only effect the general fund portion.

SENATOR LEWIS: The charge that Senator Newell has raised here was that by expending cash money, and making that a deficit and asking the Legislature to replace that money, is that a correct allegation?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, in this particular case I would not agree that it is, no, sir.

SENATOR LEWIS: Did the University spend some money for salaries regardless of what the guidelines we gave them last time happened to be, and ask the Legislature to replace their action?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes, in the amount of...according to their budget summation, of \$887,000.

SENATOR LEWIS: Could that happen again this year?

SENATOR WARNER: Based upon...to the best of our knowledge, we are utilizing...we reduced general fund requests and utilized all of the cash fund sources that we are aware of that they may have on hand in terms of the money being available, I would think not.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well, Mr. President, I want to make some comments, and I want to make them clear and decisive, that first of all, I think that obviously the Regents spent some money of the taxpayers to challenge whether the Legislature could tell them what to do or not, and I said at that time, that's fine as long as we control the money. I want the record clear that this historical trend that they have developed of utilizing other money, and then transferring the heat back to the Legislature to make up deficiency appropriations is not an acceptable way to do business. I'm not here to support the Newell amendment, but I for one member of this Legislature want to put them on notice that that is not an acceptable way to handle the problem, because I can see a trend developing that none of