

we appropriate toward. So we haven't increased the base. This isn't a windfall to the University. The legislative Appropriations Committee knew full well and had full disclosure of what they were doing. This was not a surprise to us after it happened. We were...they were aware of it. I wasn't on the Appropriations Committee in the summer when this was happening, but our fiscal staff and other people were aware of what was going on. So I think to take out this particular lump of money at this time would be a disservice to the University of Nebraska and also be a disservice and disrupt the overall appropriation that was approved by the Appropriations Committee. This is a significant dip into their budget, and it's one I don't think that we really want to do. Now if we want to do that, that's fine and good but the arguments presented on this particular item that Senator Newell's going after that's visible because of the press that it's received, those are the wrong reasons to do it. That just happens to be a focal position, a focal item, but if in fact we do want to cut for some reason, then we ought to present those reasons and say exactly where those cuts and why we do want to cut. But the reasons presented by Senator Newell in this particular amendment aren't apropos to what we're doing to the overall budget.

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR DWORAK: And so I'd urge that you support the Appropriations Committee recommendations in this matter and not support the new amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, I rise to agree with some of the questions or concepts that Senator Newell has raised, some of them, and to oppose his amendment. The complexities of the University budgeting I think, you know, are obvious here on the floor when you're dealing with an entity with several sources of funds, and when you're talking about a budget of that considerable size. Now I know it would leave the impression with some Senators like Senator Simon that there is no sort of accountability or watchdog function, but I would state that in several different ways the Appropriations Committee addressed this question of the general University increase, which Senator Dworak has discussed as around 7 percent, and specific item requests, including the picking up of this \$2,000,000 cash funds. First I think most significant is that the Appropriations Committee did not accept, did not fall for the line that