

April 10, 1979

LB 587

CLERK: Yes, sir, Mr. President, Senator Newell moves to amend: Read Newell amendment found on pages 1412 and 1413, Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I am offering this amendment which will strike \$123,428 from the University's budget, monies that are basically allotted for the State University of Nebraska or otherwise known as SUN. This program was started in 1975, excuse me, 1974. In its second year, 1975, it had an enrollment of 1,134. This is the fifth year of the program and the enrollment has crashed to 242. Just for a quick analysis for those people who are paying attention, and I hope there is some people, this is a very serious amendment. I think it is a very substantive amendment and one that really deserves some consideration. I know that there are a lot of people talking about fiscal conservatism, they are talking about setting priorities and this is a priority I don't think we can justify, and if you will hear me out and listen to me seriously and only listen to one or two members of the Appropriations Committee, I think this amendment stands an excellent chance of being adopted. There has been a significant decrease from 1,134 students to 242 students. Basically, if one was to do the mathematics on that, that is approximately \$510 per student. Now the State University of Nebraska is a program that is basically for those people that get up at 6:30 in the morning, is your early morning television program. The students that basically enroll in this program, we are talking about students, enroll for less than three hours. They are not full time students by any stretch of the imagination. The average at the University is somewhere around \$1,000 per student and they take twelve hours. So this is extremely difficult to justify. Now the University when they first proposed this program in 1974 said all they needed was start up cost, that it would be a self-supporting program. This is its fifth year and it has never been self-supporting. This \$123,428 has been hidden away. It has been basically transferred by the Regents from the direct appropriation line for the SUN University to the Department of Mediated Instruction. I don't know where that is hidden at but it is the Department of Mediated Instruction because they no longer can stand the scrutiny of a cost of \$510 per student for those students enrolling in less than three hours, some of them for noncredit courses. This is to be buried away and to be automatically increased. It will be part of the 7% increase each and every year. You see, these kinds of programs that