

May 1, 1979

LB 587

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the Lewis amendment to the Lewis amendment. Senator Lewis, do you have anything else to say on the amendment?

SENATOR LEWIS: You bet I do. Mr. President, I rise again to try to make this palatable. The \$123,000 is going to reduce the cut in Central Administration to about \$400,000 bucks. That's about a twenty percent cut in their budget, but I think they can live with that, and I think as I've explained that to Senator Newell, he understands it. Senator Newell, are you in the room so you can point out that you changed your mind on the issue?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I'd like to speak to that for a moment. Senator Lewis not only has twisted my arm, but explained ever so clearly that without adding this \$123,000 back to the Central Administration's budget, it may be a too substantial of a cut. I think the purpose here is very clear. We're still, in fact, taking a large number of dollars away from the University, and I have another amendment, which is very similar to the SUN proposal, which would take 136,000 out of the University's budget, and the points, I think, that we make here, you know, are more important than the measly dollars that we're looking at. So for that reason I think that Senator Lewis is correct. I've had a change of heart and I will support his amendments.

SENATOR LEWIS: Now Mr. Chairman, I want to talk about the substantive issue. I'm very serious about this amendment and I want to follow it right to the close, that I want us to make those cuts so that we can legitimately do it, but I want the University to understand that. It galled me just a little bit that Senator Marsh was chastising the city of Omaha about honesty yesterday, and I said those guys haven't even gone to first grade compared to the PHD they got over at the University. They misled you, they deceived you, they treated you like nothing I've ever seen. And I'm sure when they gather in corners over there, they laugh about you. They think they can manipulate you, mold you, change you, do anything they want to with you, and then come back with flimsy, lousy excuses about why they did something. They were so concerned about your involvement with the University that they went to the Supreme Court to sue you about your authority, and I resented that. I suggest that we ought to cut them twenty percent to start with and then we'd understand one another. And now they come back with the unmitigated gall...first of all they gave salary raises as they pleased last year, and they said, you guys make that up. You passed bills on retirement, and