

May 1, 1979

LB 587

well we have all but Senator Hasebroock present. Call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken as found on Page 1782 of the Legislative Journal.) 21 ayes, 18 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion lost. What else do you have on the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Newell now moves to amend the bill.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, this is the last amendment that I have for the University budget. It's pared down considerably from the five that I offered on general file. What I've tried to do is reserve the two amendments that I thought were most meritorious so that there would be a better chance of their passage and not to waste this body's time. I'd like to briefly go over the amendments that I offered on general file, which I did not offer. One amendment was to strike \$64,000 for the Chancellor, President, and Vice-chancellors of the University. One was to strike the amount of money that the University took from the cash funds to finance certain activities of the University, and another was...well, let's talk about this one. I lost my place. This is a program striking approximately \$136,000...\$136,602...it is money that the Appropriations Committee set out...set out, to continue to fund what has been heretofore known as the areas of excellence. These are dollars that were first given to the University back in 1974, and they were for a program that would last a total of three years. At that time the University specifically said that these dollars...that these dollars would not become part of their permanent budget, and that in fact is not the case. This is the fifth year and they are still asking for \$136,602 to continue this program which they call the areas of excellence. The justification for this amount of dollars, and again it's a very paltry sum in comparison with their 107 million dollar budget, is that they have to continue to test and make sure that the program that they started five years ago, which they promised would not use state monies more than three years, is still working and still as beneficial as it was originally. I think that if it has not been successful, it's already water under the dam and the continuing testing is not going to provide any additional information or understanding about this budget. For that reason I ask that we help the University live up to its commitment,