

May 14, 1979

LB 594

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Simon, if your concern is one of lesson I think lesson has been clearly learned. The point I want to make is the responsibility is only in part of the university. The Appropriations Committee had the opportunity to have said, no, at a time when no penalty would have been assessed. As I indicated earlier the reason I think that the committee did not say so was that we were still concerned whether or not the unit could be taken care of within this year's appropriation, did not want to say no early for the simple reason that any one who looks at it from a business point of view would recognize that it was the correct thing to do. You know anytime you can reduce your operating cost in half with a piece of equipment and that operating cost will pay for the equipment within half of its lifetime, that is a sound decision. Secondly, it is true that they are under capacity and you look at the requirements of research, the requirements, one of the senators mentioned to me today they had been in the library, the heat in there without the chiller. Many of those buildings as they are constructed are not useable without adequate chilling. This is what we are doing and this argument about the regents having done something that they shouldn't have done is not, in my opinion, as accurate of an argument as has been put forth.

SENATOR SIMON: Thank you, Senator Warner. Certainly the Appropriations Committee under the very astute leadership of its chairman is a very powerful committee. It is one that is respected and I would imagine generally, Senator Warner, certainly the recommendations of that committee are enacted by this body but it would concern me to no great end if under the vote of a committee, whether it be the Appropriations Committee, the Public Health Committee, the Government Committee, the Business and Labor Committee or any other committee to get the tacit approval or recommendation of that committee and then have the understanding that that was the stamp of approval by this body. Now that is not the way that things work in this Legislature.

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SIMON: Certainly, Senator Warner, generally the things that your committee recommends and you do stick together and those things do come to pass but I am still concerned and will continue to be concerned that the Legislative process could be circumvented by merely getting the stamp of approval by a body. I certainly can't see the Department of Health coming before Senator Cullan and asking