

May 14, 1979

LB 596

me inappropriate since we have argued this issue so many times now to put it in the intent bill as applying to all agencies in contradiction to what everyone of the appropriation bills state and as a result I would urge the body to reject the amendment so that the bill could be read today.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch and then Senator Nichol.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The previous question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, those opposed vote no. Motion is to cease debate. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, no nays to cease debate Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you want to close on your amendment?

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body. This proposal that I bring before the body today basically again would allow professional employees in the state government to receive a cost of living increase of 7%. As the bill is presently written these employees can only be guaranteed or assured of receiving 4%. The remaining 3% that is authorized in the budgets for these salary increases will be, will be given out at the discretion of the department head. Now what has happened is there has been some tremendous abuses in the past. Now this proposal is a compromise proposal from what Senator Reutzel offered earlier this year in this area. Senator Reutzel offered a proposal to make all salary increases straight across the board. This proposal would only make salary increases across the board for professional and non-professional employees, thus, leaving the discretion for the distributing the 3% only for supervisory and administrative employees. There is a number of reasons why we ought to do this. One of the major reasons is that there are many problems with the present distribution system. Awards that are given out by management are often times, are not very well thought through. They may be political in nature and they certainly have a number of other problems identified with them. In theory I think that it is right to say that department heads should distribute these dollars. But, in practice it does not work out well for the employees or for the State of Nebraska. If we are going to give meager salary increases like a 7% increase, at least the employee should be guaranteed to get 7% increase. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is to return the bill to Select