March 31, 1981

LB 245

our own tax dollars plus those that may be forthcoming from the federal government. I think we are setting a bad precedent and every time we want a new addition to the university system, that we are going to go to the private sector and say, get busy and get subscriptions for pledges, because to me that gives those individuals who have pledged 2 million dollars possibly a little more leverage that we might like in the conduct of that college. I, for one, believe if it is worthy of our consideration then we should say we will do it out of federal dollars and out of state dollars. That is the way we should conduct our business. I would suggest that the money that has been raised by the individuals who have subscribed the pledge would be that they would take that money to and give it to the university foundation and let them use it in their wisdom for research or what other causes promote the university system. So, if we are going to be serious about the vet college, how it is going to be built and how it is going to be financed, then we ought to take it out of our own dollars plus those dollars that may be forthcoming from the federal government. I ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Koch amendment and again, I know it will be misunderstood. As I have great respect and admiration for any industry that wants to show their support with hard dollars and that is what the livestock industry is doing here and they are to be commended for it but long term policy I have the same concern that Senator Koch has expressed. That if capital construction in the State of Nebraska once becomes established that the structure to be built is one where there is contributions then I can see where there is going to be some real adverse effects. We have done it once that I can recall with the Omaha Office Building. Essentially it got through because of the promise of local funds. There is another structure or two that I recall seeing some news stories to be built because of contributions and that is all meritorious but at least I want to be on record of expressing concern that we do not fall into the trap of only providing capital construction facilities at any state institution but particularly institutions of higher learning based on the fact that there is a local contribution or individual contributions of some nature that makes the determination. Because that is the poorest way I can think of to establish priority and while I do not expect Senator Koch's amendment to be enacted, and I even have some reservations because I know how it is going to be interpreted to vote for it but as a matter of state policy rather, I have a lot of concern that we once