

April 23, 1981

LB 559

SENATOR WARNER: I would not anticipate the likelihood that the Legislature would be picking any or at least very much up as a deficiency bill if federal funds do not come.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you very much, Senator Warner. It appears to me that we did pick up deficiencies for our courts because federal money was not available and the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice it appears to me is a very valuable help to our criminal justice system and our court system, and over the past eighteen months, they have adjusted in reductions in the LEAA federal funds by reducing their staff already and I would hate to see such a nebulous amount which really is not there if the federal funds which are estimated, and we already know are not going to be forthcoming. It is very misleading to say that they will have \$238,909 when in truth they will just have the \$128,000 of the general fund money which would be a drastic curtailment and I think a mistake in our Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement. I guess I would just like to call this to your attention and then perhaps on Select File there should be an amendment which restores some kind of ability to plan on the money and not just build in a nebulous federal fund for agencies. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we proceed, under the North balcony with Senator Richard Maresh is Richard Duba from Wilbur. Will you stand so we can welcome you to the Unicameral? The motion is to advance 559 to E & R for review. I am sorry, Senator Johnson, excuse me.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I don't have much to say, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to ask a question of Senator Warner just to make certain I understand as best as I can what it is I am voting on. Senator Warner, my question is this, in looking at the Appropriations Committee booklet prepared for the Legislature I note that you say that the Appropriations Committee and its staff says that altogether our appropriations bills will appropriate \$332,491,645 for state agency operations. What percentage increase does that represent, Senator Warner, over last year's appropriation?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Johnson, I have not made the calculation. I really can't tell you. The only one I would even attempt to do was the one in total.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: But I understand from your response to Senator Beutler's question that our overall appropriation will be a hair more than a seven percent increase over last year's appropriation, isn't that correct?