

for that faculty. They haven't had a pay increase simply because the Board of Regents and the Central Office says, "Well, as long as you are in negotiations, we are not going to pay you any money that the Legislature has appropriated." Only three weeks ago the Nebraska Supreme Court held that particular practice to be an inappropriate labor practice in the bargaining process with public employees and the Legislature, incidentally, had spoken to the other issue that happened to involve welfare workers in Douglas County who likewise didn't get the pay increase that we had appropriated because they, too, were in negotiation and we had a special resolution memorializing the state and Douglas County to provide them their pay increase and the state didn't do it. So finally the Nebraska Supreme Court says, "Look! You can't do that to public employees." Well it is being done right now to those men and those women that are teaching our children in Omaha and it is a demoralizing practice. Now I don't have the sophistication of Senator Warner and Senator Fowler and Senator Stoney and Senator Lowell Johnson and the others because I am not a member of the Appropriations Committee but one of the things that I learned in civics class when I was a student in high school was that the power of the purse is the most important power that we have and I want to send a Message to Garcia and the message very simply is, "Central Administration, start doing right by our people in Omaha and by our children", and the only way that I think that I can do it is to make certain that they, too, have no dollar increase this year. That is all I did and that is all this amendment does. It says you provide Central Administration precisely what they got last year. Now I am not even sure of the efficacy of this amendment. You know I go through this appropriational package and I go through this blue book and I see that we are going to do this and that and this and that and this and that for the university system, but as you well know, the Nebraska Supreme Court four years ago held that you and I can't do anything with the university system. The most we can do is appropriate dollars in gross and the Board of Regents can allocate it as it well sees fit. So it could well be that my \$250,000 amendment wouldn't actually be used in Central Administration. Maybe the Board of Regents would use it elsewhere but the point of the matter is I think it is important for we who control the purse strings to say to the Board of Regents and to the Central Administration, that is doing the negotiating process, "Come on. Let's do right by the people. There is no reason why you should let this go to an impasse. You can negotiate. You can negotiate in good faith, and gentlemen and gentleladies can arrive at a mutual agreement for the benefit of all, for the benefit of all", and it is for that reason that I offer the amendment.