

April 30, 1981

LB 560

is ridiculous when you look at the Chancellor's office, the President's office and look at these salaries along with the additional salary base they get from the Foundation, the extras with the home for the President, and some of these are really realizing salaries in excess of \$100,000. The Med Center is only state salary we are talking about. We don't include on this schedule that I passed to you, it does not include monies received from the Foundation. It does not include from the Med Center the extra money received by the medical personnel working there which far exceeds the amount they are, in many instances that they are receiving from the state. Now, the problem with this, and will be brought out, is that constitutionally we cannot supposedly tell the Regents what to do. But this is rather moot because the Constitution of the State of Nebraska does not tell us how much money we have to appropriate and if the Regents do not listen to appropriation direction from the Legislature, we do not have to give them as much money as they ask for next year and we can make our increases in cuts, we can add zeros to the increase. We have the total hammer over the appropriations budget because we decide how much money, and that is the final hammer that lays there, regardless of that court decision. So if the Legislature has the intent to do it, we can take these funds and demand that the University, especially with the follow-up we have next year in the budget, take and limit that salary increase to something like \$32...\$3400, and that is a sizeable increase. Now these people that are making \$35...\$36,000 and up in the University, if this is placing financial hardship on them, I assure you they are poor business managers of their own personal savings, and if they are that poor as business managers, they have no business drawing salaries like this being funded by the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska. If the argument comes that we will lose top quality people, I assure you if you measure quality by salary, we rather reduce our importance to a great degree with those of us working here with a purpose at \$4800 a year. I do not think that we want to keep people that are taking that job and holding that job solely for the sake of the salary, that do not have an interest in our state and enjoy the living circumstances they have in a fine city like Lincoln, Nebraska. I think we will improve the quality of our University personnel if any are lost because they are simply taking that job looking for that added buck where they might get somewhere else. I urge the body to adopt this amendment. We will be putting back more dollars than we have...back into the treasury than we have taken out in the previous amendments. It gives you a chance to clear yourself with the voters if you have supported these other amendments adding to the budget in a way that won't hurt anyone. Thank you for your time.

4265