April 30, 1981

LB 560

increase of salary that is provided to the Regents, we can do it and we can enforce it by next year's budget appropriations. There is no difference in constitutionality of reducing the total amount of salary increase than in reducing a 10.5 increase to a 9 percent. The constitutional problems are the same. We have already done this in the budget. We didn't give them what they asked. They can ignore us on the 9 percent salary increase just as well as they can ignore us on a limitation on the total amount of salary increase. It is clear as a bell on this issue. So I would urge the membership to remember we are talking about 419 people that are drawing over \$19 million and I don't believe the taxpayers of this state will justify this in any way. I think they are entitled to know that these salaries are running in excess of an average of \$45,000, these 419 salaries. These people are not suffering hardship. It is a clear place to take \$400,000 from the budget without hurting anyone. I urge the membership to adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: The question is, shall the Burrows amenāment be adopted? All those in favor aye, opposed nay. Senator Burrows, there are seven excused.

SENATOR BURROWS: Let it go then.

SENATOR NICHOL: The amendment fails.

CLERK: 9 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: The amendment fails.

4268