

February 4, 1982

LB 657

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Nichol. Maybe some people don't realize or maybe some people don't care that we have hundreds and hundreds of people who are unemployed. We have farmers that are going broke. We are in a depression. Finances are tight and the financial sheet will show that the state colleges will save \$103,000 and the University of Nebraska will save 576 plus for a total savings in just those two of \$679,236. Now I just can't believe that there are people who will vote to spend \$679,000 for art, mandate that we spend it at this time. Now when the economy improves and gets better, fine, but it has been said that it helps keep artists in the State of Nebraska if we do this. I thought about that and thought about that and I don't see how it can help keep any artists in Nebraska just because we are going to have this one percent because they don't have to buy Nebraska art. They can buy any art they want to and it won't take us back to the Dark Ages. That goes back a long time. Now we can still put this up in a couple of years but to mandate that this must be done at this time I think is wrong, absolutely wrong. Look and see how many members signed the bill and see what the committee did to that. So I would support Senator Nichol and let's support him, bring the bill up, and go from there. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I call the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair is going to indicate that while there are several who still want to speak I think if we cut it off now you are premature.

SENATOR NEWELL: I withdraw the motion to call the question and I will be glad to speak on this issue.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I think we need to talk to the issue here as clearly and as succinctly as we possibly can. I want to say that at the time that Bill Barrett was delivering his remarks about the shortness of the session, the importance of getting to more important bills, et cetera, et cetera, I didn't quite agree with him at that moment earlier today but I want to say that I am a convert to his way of thinking. There are many more things to do than fight