

April 25, 1989

LB 812  
LR 85, 86

all correctly engrossed. (See pages 1899-1900 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, study resolutions by Senator Rod Johnson. (Read brief descriptions of LR 85 and LB 86 as found on pages 1898-99 of the Legislative Journal.) Those two will be referred to the Executive Board for referral, Mr. President. That's all that I have.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The next item on the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Withem and Hall would move to amend the bill. (AM1531 appears on page 1890 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, are you handling the amendment, or Senator Hall?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I will start out and with my opening I will let Senator Hall have some of my time to finish the opening. This section deals with the pharmacy school repair issue. When this bill was debated on General File there was a lot of discussion expressing a lot of frustration, I think, by members of the Legislature on the issue of spending the \$2.8 million to repair the College of Pharmacy at the Med Center. And one of the frustrations was that, when it came right down to taking a vote or not taking a vote, members did not feel comfortable just turning their back on the issue and taking the section out of the bill. It was kind of like people didn't want to vote to advance the bill with that amendment in it because it might be spending \$2.8 million of taxpayers' money that could be better utilized elsewhere if the institution is, in fact, safe enough to continue to operate. On the other hand, they didn't want to take the responsibility of voting the proceeds out entirely in case the other side is right that the pharmacy school does, in fact, need this repair in order to operate in a safe fashion. Senator Hall and I were visiting about this and I ran this idea that he and I were talking about past some business people that are involved, frankly, involved in a construction industry up in Omaha and they thought we originally had a good idea. We were going to run this amendment on General File and chose not to. They thought we had a good idea. What the amendment does is that it says that rather than appropriate \$2.8 million to bring about the reconstruction of the building, the repair of the building, that we appropriate