

May 9, 1989

LB 812

PRESIDENT: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to return the bill, specifically to strike Section 8 of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I'm sitting here debating with myself as to whether I should pull this motion, talk about it and then pull it or bring it to a full vote. Obviously, I can't pull it without talking because I have already forgone that option. So I will at least talk on it and then we will make the next decision as we go along. This deals with the Pharmacy College and the repair of the Pharmacy College. If I hadn't spent so much of my time and energy in the last couple of weeks looking into this, I would probably just go ahead and pull the motion without...without even discussing it. But I just wanted to report back to the body I have had several discussions with people from University Medical Center, people in the architectural community of Omaha, people in the engineering community of Omaha and I'm probably more convinced today than I was a week ago that the passage of Section 8 of LB 812 in the manner in which it is being proposed is not a proper legislative action to take. And I am not...consequently, I am not going to be voting in support of 812 when the...when the final vote comes up. Some of the concerns I have, one of those, I guess, is with the Black and Veatch study. If you recall, on Select File, we were told that because there appeared to be still some very substantive questions by members of the body as to whether these repairs are needed, that we were going to take one more independent look at the numbers and the statistics and we were going to get an independent consultant to come in and take a look at the...at the statistics and the numbers and the calculations. It was my understanding at that time that this independent consultant was going to contact both the Daly Company that did the calculations, indicating that there is a need for this, for these repairs, and that they were also going to contact a gentleman by the name of Gene Holland who had been, admittedly he was an expert witness testifying on behalf of the original designers...the original designers of the building but that has some expertise in this area and had some opinions and that they were going to look at the assumptions of both of those. I found out yesterday morning that that did not take place. Black and Veatch Company that did this interpretation