

May 9, 1989

LB 812

PRESIDENT: The motion is withdrawn. Do you have anything further, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Moore would move to return the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President and members, this is the same amendment I offered on General File. This is the old let's go "halvsies" amendment. If you look in your bill, the total cost of this project is \$3.3 million. Presently, in its present form, the bill appropriates 2.7 million that the state would come up with and, basically, the Medical Center and the Board of Regents would come up with the balance. Well, as I stated then, and I think we have continued to debate this, I still have problems with the State of Nebraska and the taxpayers picking up the total bill on this. And the more, as we say, we try it on the floor and we try it in the press, the more questions I have persist that I don't think we have got to the total bottom of this and I don't think we have all our questions answered. And my concern is if you simply just appropriate the full shootin' match, you never will, quite simply. This is an amendment which would strike the \$2.7 million figure and insert the \$1.68 million figure. It would be a difference of \$1,085,000. I mean, I think it would be unwise and improper if we would have...I could not have voted for the full Withem amendment because I think I am convinced that something has to be done, but I think that the university and the Medical Center should come up with more price tag responsibility than \$600,000. I think a million six is something I can live with better, and by making the cost or making that...leaving that much at stake, I think we are going to find out some more answers as time unfolds. I think all of us, if nothing else, even...I am going to run this and I will let you vote on it, and if it fails, that's fine, I'm still going to vote for the bill. But at least people in the body will have one last chance, as Senator Scofield mentioned the last time I brought this up, to kick the dog. It's simple as that but I think it's a fair kick because there's a lot of things that have been wrong here. I think a lot of us have frustrations and I think this is a simple half-way point that I think I can live with and I urge adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud, please, followed by Senator Wehrbein