

May 9, 1989

LB 814

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein, was this your area on the budget that you were...I mean is it within your category? Then would you yield to a couple questions?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Sure.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein, I'm just kind of curious. I've heard on the floor again the need for Founders Hall, and again I'd like to make it clear on the record that I'm not against that happening. Whenever you have a need of building and space, it needs to be done. What I'm concerned about is the decision-making process that decided that library automation, for information for educational purposes, was a lessor priority than space needed for an overcrowded situation. Can I ask you, in the committee's discussion, why did they decide that, of the two problems, one that might be for better education of the state college students, why was that a lessor priority, and, obviously, it was because it was not included, the library automation, than an overcrowding?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'll attempt to answer that. Maybe someone else can contribute to that, Senator Bernard-Stevens. We had...we did not...We knew that library automation was there. But we were understanding that there was...it was not...during our deliberations, we were not quite prepared to make that decision because they were requesting for bids and some updated information. Now, since we have put this budget together, it has been there. I guess I'll...speaking for myself, but I think others, we had hoped probably to include that in in time, perhaps seeking its own level of funding, or its own timing of funding in time. It wasn't necessarily thrown out. It was just that we felt that this was a bigger priority in terms of space. I would still have hopes, say personally, to put that in, if...and in my case, it might be more important than some other things that we may have done already or will do, but it wouldn't necessarily include Founders Hall. I mean that issue had been decided in my mind.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The other question I guess I'd like to ask is, when Founders Hall is completed, will that solve the overcrowding problem of Kearney? And I think the answer to that is no.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Probably it would not solve it completely.