

May 9, 1989

LB 814

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schimek, please, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, I seldom have a problem with what Senator Bernard...or with the way Senator Bernard-Stevens says something, but I guess I sometimes have a problem with the way he approaches it. And I don't like his approach this time. I don't like him picking on poor little old Founders Hall out in Kearney, because I think that Kearney has been underfunded for many years, and I think anybody who sat in on the appropriations process recognizes this. I think there is a critical need of space. I don't remember the exact figures, but I remember reading an article recently that said what percentage of their students are actually housed in dorms out there, and it's a very, very small percentage. They just haven't been able to build to keep pace with their growth. I do think that Senator Bernard-Stevens has indicated a very real problem, and that is the problem of priority setting in the appropriations process. And I can understand why somebody who sits on the Education Committee might be frustrated with that process, because often there is...maybe there is not enough communication there. Maybe there is not enough sitting in on the others' meetings to know what is really going on. Perhaps we could consider how that problem might be addressed into the future. But I would say that this is not the way to do it. In fact, Bernard-Stevens, I don't even know if your suggestion is germane here, because we're talking about the capital construction budget and you're talking about something entirely different. Perhaps an amendment to the mainline budget would be a suggestion. Perhaps there are other ways of approaching the problem. I guess that my feeling is if we underfund Founders Hall, like we did on the greenhouses, for instance, at UN-L, that we may actually pay for it later. So I would encourage you not to underfund this project, to fund it. And, if you're serious about this library automation, which I am, too, I think it's an excellent project, then let's find another way of doing it rather than cutting Founders Hall out of the budget, or even underfunding it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Warner.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I just wanted to respond quickly to Senator Bernard-Stevens' question about why wasn't this in now. There is a bill that Senator