

and upgrading of instruments...instrumental equipment for teaching at the university, then hard times came and this dropped out. There has not been really the reestablishment of that, and as a consequence the areas of the university have become in a severely restricted situation, financially, in being able to maintain the instruments that are needed for the teaching of the students. This is particularly true in the area of engineering. I feel and I think many people recognize that we are at a near disaster point on that. The College of Engineering is at the very edge of losing its accreditation. Now that would disaster. We have the instructional staff, but the one thing that the accreditation committee looked at, and that is from people throughout the United States, they said you must update. Now within our budget this has been cut. I'm not going to be ask directly for a veto because since this amendment has been entered it has stimulated the discussions to go on within the university and between the Governor's Office. I'm delighted to report that the discussions have been positive, that the Governor has not had the information, the solid information upon which to be making a judgment decision and also the fact that these funds are within other funds, and it becomes complex within the budget. But she is definitely willing to discuss, with the proper authorities of the university, in resolving this problem in the future. But before I conclude here I wish to give some of my time to Senator Lowell Johnson.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, thank you, Senator Wehling, for allowing me to add a couple of words to your well chosen presentation on the very important problem of instructional equipment in our University of Nebraska system. I am very pleased to understand your report that the Governor has recognized that it is extremely important that steps be taken to maintain and improve our instructional equipment on a, hopefully, a systematic and a regularly scheduled and budgeted basis. The lack of such support in the past has been a tremendous detriment and has had a bad impact on laboratory and classroom instruction. And the problem will worsen dramatically in the future if we do not lend further attention to the problem. Not replacing and improving our instructional equipment in a timely fashion means that the backlog of costs continue to grow, because equipment must be replaced eventually. Old equipment frustrates the user, due to unreliability and large repair costs, and often the equipment