

would be withdrawn after some discussion. It was my intent, in bringing this amendment, to use this as a vehicle, first of all, to present the issue of funding for the University of Nebraska salaries. But all...and...but all...generally, but also to deal with the issue of the collective bargaining agreements. I apologize publicly to Senator Lynch because I certainly did not mean to set him up at all. This amendment was not brought to me by the university, by the lobbyist, Lee Rupp, or by anybody else. I've just been very frustrated throughout the process, as has Senator Lynch, by the fact that the faculty at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the faculty at the University in Kearney have bargained in good faith and have bargained salary levels and it is clear that there, at least in the appropriations bill as it now stands in the Governor's budget that there was insufficient money to pay out those amounts now and still have a reasonable amount set aside for UNL. So that has been something that has been very frustrating to me. And at the beginning of the session there was a TV show that Senator Lynch and I were both on where I said, you know, I really want to maintain, keep maintaining the university budget. I think it's important that we do it. I think it's important to our state. And maybe I am sticking my neck out in bringing this amendment at this stage. I'm not trying to force people to vote yea or nay by this vote saying they're either for or against the university because I know there may be other reasons why they can't vote for this amendment. But I do feel strongly..and also if Senator Lynch wants to bring that amendment up again to discuss the mandatory issue, then so be it, but I think this is something we need to address and that's the purpose of bringing this amendment to you. If we don't do this, if we don't do this, the end result will be, I think, no matter what the university says or doesn't say, no matter whether they say there's money hidden somewhere or they have money in Cash Funds somewhere, I think what the end result of this is going to be is going to be tuition increases across the board and potential programmatic decreases. I don't want to see that happen and I don't think anybody else in this body does. And I realize that some of you may be voting against this, like Senator Bernard-Stevens, who don't want to see that either, or Senator Lynch who doesn't want to see that. But, for whatever reason they don't want to vote for this bill, and I respect that...or this amendment, I respect that. But I do think it's an issue that needs to be brought before the body. I really think we're going to be short at the university unless we do it whether or not there's money stashed away or not. And I am frustrated by