

Governor in this instance was the addition of a couple of hundred thousand dollars for longevity pay for uniformed officers. The Department of Administrative Services, we are slightly above their last year's request. There has been extensive discussion here with the funding for the new State Office Building, as well as this office building. It has been explained previously the committee did zero base budget this particular activity in the new office building. There are long-range, or within a year's time, goals to re-staff the activity here down to a lower level than had originally been anticipated, with that difference to be picked up with contractual arrangements where certain maintenance functions are not a full-time on-going program, but one which is only intermediately needed as a result, perhaps in the long term savings would occur through the use of outside help, rather than full-time people, only for occasional maintenance work. Equal Opportunity Commission, we recommend to you not quite what the agency asked, but more funds than were approved by the Governor. This is an agency which has got a considerable backlog of cases, some thousand currently, they were projecting as many as 1400 for next year. It was felt that this should be worked on to get that overload reduced. The Mexican American Commission, this is essentially their request, modified by refusing to give some of the additional staff they wanted. We did approve a separation of their function from the Indian Commission in Scottsbluff, so they were two separate offices rather than a joint office. The Nebraska Commission on the Aging is approximately their request. The reductions that we made were in their request with some \$30,000 to buy buses. We find that there is a program for federal funds that can adequately take care of this. There is language in the bill directing the Department of Roads, which has the immediate responsibility for these kinds of transit areas to assist local governmental subdivisions in acquiring these kinds of buses. They had asked for \$50,000 in additional funds for discretionary use. We recommend approximately \$15,000. The Department of Economic Development is somewhat of an increase over the current operating funds. We made no decrease in the amount of funds that go to local government. We increased the amount of funds in the tourism. Included in this appropriation is also a \$50,000 amount to cover legislation that was enacted last year for an Indian population study in which no A bill or appropriation had been made. One of the things that is included there is there were some 13 vacancies in that agency at the current time which we did not fund. The increase in salaries, assuming they could use some of that vacancy money to bring about their salary increases, rather than adding any money in a short time of revenue. The Department of Personnel, the significant thing here is the proposal that the merit system and the Department of Personnel could become merged by the end of the year, the fiscal year June 30, 1978. These two appropriations are put in together. I think it's interesting to note that Merit is on the 5th floor of the new State Office Building, and the Department of Personnel is on the 1st floor. It makes a little sense, it seems to me, to have this kind of a spread between two agencies that, for the convenience of the citizens, ought to be functioning more closer together. State Office of Planning and Programming, is again about their request. There was a shift in certain community planning money from State Office of Planning over to the Department of Economic Development. While there shows a reduction in their request, there is not a reduction in the amount of services, but there was a transfer between two agencies for certain responsibilities.