

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 12, 1999

LB 880

whether we're truthful, whether we're accurate, whether we're responsible, and we're held accountable for our views. The person or persons who wrote that inaccurate, misleading, and potentially damaging editorial are not accountable. Can you tell me who wrote that, whose views those are? Is that an anonymous, multi-headed person? Is it a four-person board? Was it one person on that board? Is it the views of the publisher, the owner of the paper? Whose views are those, and why aren't they as accountable as we? Aside from the fact that they seemingly do not wish to be accountable for their errors, because they do not identify themselves, the prospect that this Legislature will adopt a budget and a series of A bills and send them to the Governor with money above the minimum reserve is an almost historic event. I have continually asked the fiscal office when that has ever happened before, and they keep telling me, we don't know. It is, I think, a sign of the responsibility that we have taken on for the people of the state of Nebraska, as Senator Kristensen suggested, not to spend all of the money that we could spend. Because we could spend right down to the minimum reserve, and we could send the Governor proposals that would even spend beyond the minimum reserve, and say, Governor, kind of clean up after this mess that we left to you. And we have done that consistently, persistently, over the years. This Legislature has shown itself to be different. And I think we will show ourselves to be different in that we are not sending the Governor a mess that the Governor has to straighten out in terms of the budget and the appropriations bills that we sent to them. What we are instead sending is a list of priorities for the state that can be afforded, and that we believe ought to be accomplished. That is a much different message to the people of the state of Nebraska, and I think you should be proud of yourselves for having a part in developing and sending that message.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I think it's extremely rare, probably the first time in all of these years, that I've risen to speak on a Senator Chambers bracket motion. But I believe the issue of responsible journalism is such that it is incumbent upon all of us, all of