

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

March 20, 2002 LB 1309

when the day comes that people start...stop using platitudes to obscure reality. The fact of the matter is that we have to live within our means and that also applies to the University of Nebraska, and there are five campuses. Curtis, Nebraska, was left out. I don't know how many of you are going to vote for this. You at least have the chance. And I ask you to think about where this money comes from. Senator Wehrbein pointed out that we don't have control of all of our budget so we have to make the cuts where we can, and the largest number is the University of Nebraska, and the number that this amendment puts on there for aid to the University of Nebraska is less than 2 percent of their operating budget. If they can't cut 2 percent out of their budget with ease then I hope they don't have anything to do in teaching business administration or accounting or human resources, which used to be called personnel. If they can't do that they shouldn't be teaching at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Kruse.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I will be very brief. I stand to oppose the amendment that is before us and to strongly resist any further cuts to our university. And I'm not going to repeat what has been said. It's been a good discussion. I affirm that. I've heard a lot about damages to the university. I have a greater concern. I have concern about damage to Nebraska. If we cut into this, we are in trouble with economic development. The university is our strongest card in that and has been for many years. It is the way we draw people to this state and we need to pay attention to that kind of resource and that kind of investment. If we want to talk about where the increases come from, if we're really going to look at cutting, we need to talk about where the increases come from. There are three big ones. They are local aid, children, and the elderly, and we say they're sacrosanct. Well, local aid is not sacrosanct. If we really feel we have to cut then there's the big target to cut on. My assessment of what I hear is that the public, our people, do not want to cut children and elderly, but if we're looking for big chunks that's where we're going to have to go. I...I support the budget in the way it has been presented to us. Thank you.