

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

March 21, 2002 LB 1309

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, the last thing I wanted to do on the floor is to give the impression of a threat, Senator Tyson, and I did not intend for that to be a threat, and I don't think the university has made that threat. The issue on the university budget is that teaching is their first priority, followed by research, followed by extension. So it's a logical extension, if you will, of the statute that if cuts are to be made the third in their priority list would be the one that is cut, and I did not intend for that to be a cut (sic-threat), I was just trying to be realistic. What I really wanted to talk about was the fact that we have...I have a list here of things that, if I'm here next year, I will or others probably will introduce a list of some things that we can cut, program by program, and so perhaps this is a way to put other committees on...on notice the things that we could cut or discard or take out. It's up to you if this is a core of Nebraska...of services a state should be providing: textbook loan program is \$403,000; school breakfast reimbursement is \$301,000; high ability learners is now at 3.259, 3 million, over 3 million dollars, high ability learners; ag opportunities value-added is \$950,000, by the way, that goes away automatic because that was a three-year program; Nebraska advocacy services, \$224,000; senior companion, \$200,000; area agencies on aging, \$3.7 million; local transit authority, \$641,000; innercity bus subsidy, \$114,000; guard tuition assistance, \$855,000; land surveyors, that's ongoing, I don't think I'd use land surveyors, we need a land surveyor. The Board of Agriculture, \$303,000, that's the State Fair. This year we cut completely. In your budget this year, there is no support for the Nebraska State Fair. Managing Main Street is \$118,000; Microenterprise Development Act, \$475,000; industrial training, \$600,000; venture capital forum, \$190,000; crime victims was \$200,000, we did cut that; indigent defense reimbursement is \$902,000, and the Rural Development Commission is \$358,000. There's probably 4 to 5 million plus dollars in that very issue that we can cut program by program that we cannot do in our committee without a change in the statute. I filed an amendment that will be coming up, not next but after that, to cut a Regional Center, and I fully intend to pursue a study on that