

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 30, 2015

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SENATOR COASH PRESIDING

SENATOR COASH: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE SEVENTY-SECOND DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS FATHER RYAN LEWIS OF ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH IN OMAHA, SENATOR MELLO'S DISTRICT. PLEASE RISE.

FATHER LEWIS: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU. I CALL TO ORDER THE SEVENTY-SECOND DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE CHECK IN. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR COASH: ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS.

SENATOR COASH: ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: ONE ITEM, MR. PRESIDENT. AN AMENDMENT TO BE PRINTED TO LB599 BY SENATOR RIEPE. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1337.)
[LB599]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

CLERK: LB360A IS AN A BILL INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOHNSON. [LB360A]

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SENATOR COASH: SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB360A. [LB360A]

SENATOR JOHNSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, COLLEAGUES. AND GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. LB360 WITH ITS AMENDMENTS, ESPECIALLY AM1193 WHICH WAS APPROVED, PASSED TOGETHER WITH LB360 PROVIDED THE FUNDING TO BE USED IN THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL CAT AND DOG ACT. THE FUNDS ARE SET UP THROUGH ADDITIONAL FEES TO THE BREEDERS AND TO LICENSED DOG OWNERS SO IT CREATES A REVENUE STREAM. THE APPROPRIATION IS A CASH FUND. IT'S USED TO TRAIN THE INVESTIGATIVE OFFICER AND ALSO POSSIBLY PROVIDE FOR A PART-TIME PERSON THROUGH THEIR AGENCY TO BE PART OF THE COMMERCIAL CAT AND DOG ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. SO IT IS A CASH FUND APPROPRIATION, THERE'S NO GENERAL FUNDS USED IN LB360. I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LB360A. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB360A LB360]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN FOR DISCUSSION ON LB360A. SEEING NO MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR JOHNSON IS RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE. HE WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE BODY IS, SHALL LB360A ADVANCE? ALL THOSE... SENATOR NORDQUIST. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED WHO WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB360A]

CLERK: 28 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB360A. [LB360A]

SENATOR COASH: LB360A DOES ADVANCE. NEXT ITEM, MR. CLERK. [LB360A]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB658 WAS A BILL ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY THE SPEAKER AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 22, REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. AT THIS TIME I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR MELLO, AS CHAIR OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB658. [LB658]

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SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. LB658 IS THE FIRST OF SEVEN LEGISLATIVE BILLS THAT COLLECTIVELY REPRESENT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM, FISCAL YEARS 2015-16 AND 2016-17. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LB658 AND LB662, EACH OF THE BUDGET BILLS WILL HAVE A WHITE COPY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT WHICH WILL BECOME THE NEW BILL. AS WE BEGIN DEBATE TODAY ON THE BUDGET, I WILL REFER YOU TO THE COPY OF YOUR BUDGET BOOKS WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED EARLIER THIS WEEK, AS WELL AS THE GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL STATUS THAT IS ATTACHED TO TODAY'S AGENDA. THE GREEN SHEET ON TODAY'S AGENDA CONTAINS THE MOST UP-TO-DATE BUDGET INFORMATION. AND FROM NOW TILL THE END OF SESSION THIS GREEN SHEET WILL BE UPDATED DAILY AND ATTACHED TO THE AGENDA. BEFORE DISCUSSING LB658, I WANT TO GIVE THE BODY A SUMMARY OF THE OVERALL BUDGET PICTURE. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDE FOR AN ANNUAL AVERAGE SPENDING GROWTH OF 3.1 PERCENT FOR THE BIENNIUM, WHICH IS THE LOWEST AVERAGE GROWTH IN THE LAST 15 BIENNIUMS OR 30 YEARS, OUTSIDE OF THE 2003 AND 2009 BIENNIUMS WHEN THE STATE WAS BATTLING SIGNIFICANT RECESSIONS. UPON THE PASSAGE OF THIS BUDGET, THE STATE OF NEBRASKA WILL MAINTAIN A STRONG CASH RESERVE, SEE INVESTMENTS FOR CONTINUED GROWTH, AND WILL HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE'S CONSTITUTION. THE DECISIONS IN THIS BUDGET PACKAGE RECOGNIZE THE PRIORITIES OF THIS LEGISLATURE, REFLECT THE VALUES OF NEBRASKANS, AND RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PARTICULARLY FOCUSED ON PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, K-12 EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INVESTING IN UNIQUE PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS, AND ADDRESSING ISSUES SURROUNDING OUR DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. THERE'S A STRONG DESIRE OF THIS LEGISLATURE AND A MAJORITY OF OUR CONSTITUENTS FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO REDUCE PROPERTY TAX BURDENS. THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE YOU INCLUDE THE TWO-YEAR BUDGETARY MEASURES AVAILABLE TO DO JUST THAT. WE HAVE INCREASED STATE AID TO EDUCATION THROUGH TEEOSA AND BOLSTERED THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROGRAM WITH AN INFUSION OF \$120 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM, INCREASING THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION AND MATCHING THE RECOMMENDATION IN GOVERNOR RICKETTS' BUDGET PROPOSAL. COLLEAGUES, THIS WOULD BE THE LARGEST INCREASE TO THE PROGRAM SINCE IT WAS CREATED IN 2007. IN ADDITION TO DIRECT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF THE COMMITTEE'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE FUNDING INITIATIVES IN BOTH K-12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION. EVERY

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SCHOOL DISTRICT IN NEBRASKA WILL SEE AN INCREASE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING. APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, STATE COLLEGES, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES HAVE ALL SEEN A MODERATE INCREASE OF 3 PERCENT, THE SAME LEVEL INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATION. THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION INCLUDES SEVERAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE WILL SEE A BOOST IN SUPPORT FOR THEIR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. THIS BUDGET INVESTS IN VISIONARY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT BRING IN FUNDING FROM NEBRASKA'S PRIVATE SECTOR TO GROW NEBRASKA, SHARING RESPONSIBILITY, AND FOSTERING THE POTENTIAL TO BRING IN HIGH RETURNS FOR OUR STATE, INITIATIVES SUCH AS: THE GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING WHERE OVER 75 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS WILL COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE, AND THE OUTDOOR VENTURES PARK PROJECT OF THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION. WHILE THESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES LOOK TO THE FUTURE, THIS BUDGET ALSO INCLUDES MEASURES TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS THE STATE IS FACING FROM POLICY DECISIONS MADE BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. WHILE WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FULL TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHOSE TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN BOTH OF THOSE AGENCIES. OUR RECOMMENDATION INCREASED SECURITY STAFFING, FUNDING FOR CRITICAL VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, AND A ONE-TIME INFLUX APPROPRIATION FOR THE DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IN AN ATTEMPT TO END THE PRACTICE OF PAYING THIS YEAR'S CHILD WELFARE BILLS WITH NEXT YEAR'S APPROPRIATION. THE COMMITTEE HAS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ALSO INCLUDE A NEEDS ASSESSMENT THAT'S REQUIRED FOR BOTH THE PLAGUED ACCESSNEBRASKA SYSTEM IN HHS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STUDY AVAILABILITY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES. THE DECISIONS WITHIN THESE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED TO THE FULL LEGISLATURE TODAY ARE A RESPONSIBLE BALANCE OF STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS, FULFILLING THE STATE'S OBLIGATIONS, AND HOLDING THE LINE AT ONE OF THE LOWEST SPENDING PERCENTAGE GROWTHS IN THE LAST 30 YEARS. THE CASH RESERVE FUND REMAINS STRONG AT A LEVEL NEAR 16 PERCENT OF ANNUAL NET RECEIPTS. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IS HELD TO THE PRACTICE OF UTILIZING THE CASH RESERVE FUND FOR ONLY ONE-TIME PROJECT ITEMS AND NOT FOR

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ONGOING SPENDING OR ONGOING TAX RELIEF MEASURES. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE CASH RESERVE FUND AND THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROACH TO ITS USE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 13 OF YOUR BUDGET BOOK. THE NEBRASKA ECONOMIC FORECASTING BOARD WILL MEET LATER TODAY AT 1:00 P.M. ANY CHANGES IN THE REVENUE FORECAST WILL BE ADDRESSED WHEN THE BOARD MAKES THOSE NUMBERS OFFICIAL. UNTIL SPECIFIC NUMBERS ARE AVAILABLE, I WILL ADDRESS THE BUDGET WITH THE OFFICIAL NUMBERS AVAILABLE FROM THE FORECASTING BOARD'S MEETING IN FEBRUARY AND THE NUMBERS USED BY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN CRAFTING THESE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS. AT THIS MOMENT I'D LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THEIR WORK, FOR THEIR TRUST IN THE PROCESS, AND FOR OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE FOR THEIR DUE DILIGENCE AND DEDICATION TO ASSIST THE LEGISLATURE THROUGH THIS ARDUOUS PROCESS. THIS HAS ARGUABLY, COLLEAGUES, BEEN MY NOW MY FOURTH BUDGET AS A MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. AND WHILE IT HAS BEEN A UNIQUE PROCESS WITH FIVE NEW MEMBERS, I WOULD ARGUE IT'S BEEN, ARGUABLY, THE BEST BUDGET WE'VE PUT TOGETHER IN MY TIME IN THE LEGISLATURE. NEW MEMBERS, SUCH AS OUR VICE CHAIRMAN, BOB HILKEMANN, SENATOR JOHN KUEHN, SENATOR JOHN STINNER, SENATOR DAN WATERMEIER, AND EVEN A SENIOR NEW MEMBER WITH SENATOR KEN HAAR, AS FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO A COMMITTEE OF NINE, HAVE ADDED THOUGHTFULNESS, HAVE ADDED DUE DILIGENCE, HAVE ASKED GREAT QUESTIONS, HAVE QUESTIONED ASSUMPTIONS, AND I THINK HAVE FOSTERED A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE AND CIVILITY THAT I ONLY HOPE EVERY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE GETS TO EXPERIENCE. AS I HAVE TOLD OTHER GROUPS OVER THE LAST WEEK TALKING ABOUT THE BUDGET, I FEEL CONFIDENT WHEN I LEAVE THE LEGISLATURE NEXT YEAR THIS INSTITUTION WILL BE IN GREAT HANDS WITH THE RETURNING MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE LEADING IT WELL INTO THE FUTURE. THAT DOESN'T NEGATE THE HARD WORK OF OUR RETURNING MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE: SENATOR KINTNER, SENATOR BOLZ, AND SENATOR NORDQUIST. AS MANY OF YOU NO DOUBT KNOW THAT FOR AT LEAST SENATOR NORDQUIST AND MYSELF, HE'S BEEN ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS IN THIS BODY AND HE'S BEEN A CONFIDANT THROUGH A LOT OF DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS OVER SEVEN YEARS. AND WHILE WE DID THIS AS A COMMITTEE, I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO THANK MY FRIEND BECAUSE, WHILE WE CAME INTO THIS BODY TOGETHER AND WILL LEAVE THIS BODY TOGETHER, I KNOW THE WORK THAT HE'S DONE TO HELP PROVIDE INFORMATION, NOT ONLY TO NEW MEMBERS BUT TO MYSELF, HAS BEEN VOLUNTARY AND IT DOES NOT GO WITHOUT NOTICE FROM NOT ONLY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE BUT ARGUABLY ONE OF HIS CLOSE

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FRIENDS. ALSO, AS MY LAST, SO TO SPEAK, BIENNIAL BUDGET I HAVE A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR MY FRIENDS IN THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE. DIRECTOR MIKE CALVERT HAS BEEN A COUNSELOR, A CONFIDANT, A GOOD SPARRING PARTNER ON A VARIETY OF POLICY AND FISCAL ISSUES. AND AS ONE SENIOR LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR TO A YOUNG LEGISLATOR, HE'S PROVIDED GUIDANCE TO NOT JUST ME BUT TO THIS ENTIRE BODY. AND I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE WORK ON BEHALF OF ALL OF YOU WITHOUT HIS SUPPORT AND WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF HIS OFFICE. DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOM BERGQUIST, SCOTT DANIGOLE, MALICK DIARRASSOUBA, DOUG GIBBS, JEANNE GLENN, PHIL HOVIS, LIZ HRUSKA, MIKE LOVELACE, WANDA McNALLY, DOUG NICHOLS, SUSAN ROBINS, SANDY SOSTAD, AND KATHY TENOPIR... [LB658 LB662]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR MELLO: ...ARE ALL ANALYSTS THAT RESIDE IN THAT OFFICE. THEY DO OUR FISCAL NOTES. BUT AS THE MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WELL KNOW, WE SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEM THAN ARGUABLY ANYONE ELSE IN THIS BODY. THEY GIVE US THEIR FEEDBACK, THEY GIVE US THEIR COUNSEL, AND THEY GIVE US THEIR UNBIASED OPINION IN REGARDS TO WHAT WE, AS A LEGISLATURE, SHOULD CONSIDER GOOD FISCAL POLICY AND GOOD PUBLIC POLICY. I'M FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR ALL THEIR WORK OVER THE LAST SEVEN YEARS AND I KNOW ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATURE I THINK THE LEGISLATURE SHARES THAT APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE WORK THAT THEY'VE DONE. NOW LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION TO LB658, THE FIRST OF SEVEN BUDGET BILLS BEFORE US. LB658 PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF THE 49 STATE SENATORS. A SEPARATE APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THESE SALARIES IS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE III, SECTION 22 OF THE NEBRASKA STATE CONSTITUTION. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB658]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO LB658. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATORS KINTNER, HADLEY, STINNER, NORDQUIST, AND OTHERS. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

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SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD AND FOUGHT SO LONG FOR THIS BUDGET. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. I APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK OF EACH AND EVERY PERSON. AND WHEN YOU GO THROUGH THIS BUDGET THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYBODY IN THIS BUDGET. I WANT TO THANK THE APPROPRIATIONS OR THE FISCAL OFFICE STAFF FOR ANSWERING ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS, FOR DOING EVERYTHING THAT CHAIRMAN MELLO SAID THAT THEY DID. I WOULD SECOND THAT. THEY ARE MAGNIFICENT AND I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT WHAT THEY DO FOR US. I WOULD SAY CHAIRMAN MELLO IS A MAGICIAN, HE IS A COUNSELOR, HE IS A LEADER, AND TO GET ME TO VOTE FOR THIS BUDGET I THINK WAS A MINOR MIRACLE. AND THE FACT THAT HE PULLED IT OFF--HE GOT NINE VOTES OUT OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THIS BUDGET--I THINK ONLY CHAIRMAN MELLO COULD PULL THAT OFF. NOW LET'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE BUDGET. WE'RE SOMEWHERE NORTH OF \$400 MILLION OF NEW SPENDING. THAT DOESN'T EXACTLY PLEASE ME. WE'VE KEPT IT AT 3.1 (PERCENT); THAT DOES PLEASE ME. NOBODY GOT EVERYTHING THEY WANTED IN THIS BUDGET. THERE'S PROBABLY SOMETHING IN THIS BUDGET TO OFFEND EVERY 1 OF THE 49 MEMBERS HERE AND MAYBE MORE THAN A COUPLE OF THINGS IN THE BUDGET TO OFFEND SOME OF US. BUT OVERALL, WE FUNDED WHAT WE HAD TO FUND. WE PUT SOME MONEY IN THINGS THAT WE NEED TO PUT MONEY IN. WE SAID NO TO SOME THINGS THAT WERE TOUGH TO SAY NO TO. WE PUT THINGS OFF THAT WE MAY VERY WELL FUND IN THE FUTURE. AND IT'S NEVER AN EASY THING TO DO, IS PUT OUT A BUDGET. BUT I THINK ON BALANCE THIS IS PROBABLY A GOOD BUDGET. AND I GOT TO TELL YOU, YOU KNOW IT'S ALWAYS MY POLICY NEVER TO INTRODUCE BILLS TO SPEND MONEY. I WANT TO BE A FAIR ARBITER IN WHAT I DO. I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO HOLD ANYTHING OVER ON ME ON MY BILLS TO GET ME TO VOTE FOR ANYTHING ELSE. NOT THAT ANYONE ELSE HAS DONE THAT, BUT I NEVER WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO ME. SO I'M NOT PARTICULARLY IN LOVE WITH ANYTHING IN THIS BUDGET. WELL, I MIGHT TAKE THAT BACK. I DO LOVE THE \$60 MILLION FOR THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FUND. SO IT WAS ALL OUT ON THE TABLE AND IT WAS ALL THERE TO MOVE AND MAKE WORK. AND I THINK THAT WE DID THAT. AND I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE ON THIS COMMITTEE FOR WORKING SO HARD AND POURING OUT THEIR HEART AND THEIR GUTS ON THIS BUDGET. AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THIS BUDGET AND I WILL YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO CHAIRMAN MELLO. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR MELLO, YOU HAVE 2:00. [LB658]

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SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. I JUST WANTED TO FINISH IN REGARDS TO REALLY THE BILL THAT WE HAVE UP IN FRONT OF US IN THE SENSE THAT THIS APPROPRIATION IS FOR THE \$12,000 THAT EACH OF US ARE PAID AND THE CORRESPONDING EMPLOYER PAYROLL CONTRIBUTION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY. IT'S THE ONLY BUDGET BILL THAT DOES NOT HAVE A COMMITTEE AMENDMENT AND IT DOES CONTAIN AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE. I APPRECIATE SENATOR KINTNER'S COMMENTS BECAUSE SENATOR KINTNER AND MYSELF, WHILE WE MAY NOT AGREE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, HE'S BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE NOW FOR THREE YEARS. I THINK HE WOULD AGREE THAT WE'VE HAD OUR UPS AND DOWNS AS A COMMITTEE, BUT THE REALITY IS, COLLEAGUES, THIS IS A COMMITTEE THAT IS MADE UP OF A VARIETY OF POLITICAL PERSUASIONS AND IDEOLOGIES, SENATORS THAT REPRESENT VARIOUS GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE STATE. AND WHEN I STOOD BACK IN FRONT OF YOU BACK IN JANUARY TO ASK FOR YOUR VOTE TO BE COMMITTEE CHAIR, I PROMISED YOU THAT WE WOULD WORK OUR HARDEST AS NINE MEMBERS TO FORGE COMPROMISE AND TRY TO SEEK CONSENSUS. AND WHEN WE'RE ABLE TO DO A 9-0 VOTE OF OUR COMMITTEE ON A BUDGET PACKAGE,... [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR MELLO: ...IT'S BASED ON TRYING TO SEEK CONSENSUS AND TRYING TO FIND COMPROMISE BECAUSE, AS SENATOR KINTNER SAID, THERE'S NOT EVERYTHING IN THE BUDGET THAT I LIKE AND THERE'S NOT EVERYTHING IN THE BUDGET THAT HE LIKES. BUT THIS PROCESS ALLOWS US TO BE ABLE TO BUILD THAT COMPROMISE, TO BE ABLE TO BUILD A BUDGET THAT WILL GROW OUR STATE, WILL MAKE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS, AND MEETS THE STATE'S OBLIGATIONS MOVING FORWARD. WITH THAT, I'D URGE YOU TO ADVANCE LB658. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO AND SENATOR KINTNER. SENATOR HADLEY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I KNOW THAT THIS WILL PROBABLY BE REPEATED MANY TIMES, BUT I DO WANT TO THANK THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK IN GETTING THIS DONE. IT'S NOT AN EASY TASK BALANCING ALL THE WANTS OF PEOPLE WITH THE RESOURCES THE STATE HAS. I KNOW THAT'S VERY DIFFICULT. BUT I ALSO

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WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE AND THANK ALL THE COMMITTEES. I KNOW THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF HARD WORK OVER THE LAST MONTHS IN COMMITTEES WORKING ON BILLS, WORKING THROUGH CONCERNS, PROBLEMS, GETTING BILLS IN SHAPE, GETTING BILLS TO THE FLOOR. AND I THINK IF AROUND THE COUNTRY IF OTHER LEGISLATURES CAME TO NEBRASKA AND SAW HOW WE WORKED, THEY WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY AMAZED THAT WE ELECT MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES NOT BASED ON PARTIES, THAT WE ELECT LEADERSHIP NOT BASED ON PARTIES. WE DO NOT HAVE MAJORITY MEMBERS AND MINORITY MEMBERS. WE ALL WORK TOGETHER AND WE WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE STATE. AND I SEE THAT IN THE QUALITY OF LEGISLATION THAT WE HAVE FROM ALL COMMITTEES. SO I WANT TO COMMEND THE ENTIRE BODY FOR THE WORK THAT THEY DO IN OUR COMMITTEE SYSTEM. THE FACT THAT WE ALLOW...REQUIRE, NOT ALLOW, REQUIRE EVERY BILL TO HAVE A HEARING AND EVERY CITIZEN IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA TO COME AND TESTIFY IS A TESTAMENT TO OUR SYSTEM. I THINK OUR COMMITTEE SYSTEM IS PROBABLY THE GREATEST COMMITTEE SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES. AND LASTLY, I LOVE THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE TO WORK IN THE AFTERNOONS THE FIRST COUPLE MONTHS. THANK YOU ALL. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HADLEY. SENATOR STINNER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR STINNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, PRIOR TO THE SESSION WE WERE...WE GATHERED--WE, MEANING THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND RELATED PEOPLE, MEANING FISCAL OFFICE PEOPLE AND SENATOR MELLO'S STAFF--HAD A GROUP PICTURE. AND IF WE WERE ALLOWED BY THE CLERK TO WEAR THESE, I WOULD HAVE WORN THEM TODAY, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE. BUT THEY CONSIDER THIS A PROP OF SOME SORT. BUT IT'S A GREAT T-SHIRT. IT SAYS, IN MELLO WE TRUST. AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT IN THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS WE START OUT LOOKING AT THE CASH AGENCIES AND WORK OUR WAY THROUGH THE VARIOUS AGENCIES. WE HAVE TESTIMONY AND HEARINGS AND WE GET DOWN TO THAT LAST TWO, THREE WEEKS. IN THE LAST TWO, THREE WEEKS WE KIND OF DISTILL EVERYTHING DOWN AND WE TRY TO CREATE WHAT YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW WHICH IS CALLED A BUDGET. AND, OF COURSE, ALL OF US HAD OPINIONS, ALL OF US TALKED ABOUT DIFFERENT AREAS, AND EVERY TIME IT BECAME A CONTENTIOUS OR BIG QUESTION, HEATH MELLO WOULD GO, TRUST ME. AND I MEAN I CAN REMEMBER...I'LL REMEMBER THIS TILL I DIE. TRUST ME. SO THAT'S WHAT CAME OUT OF THIS T-SHIRT. BUT I DO WANT TO THANK THE COMMITTEE. WE CAME AT THIS THING WITH A LOT OF DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHY

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AND PHILOSOPHIES, BUT I THOUGHT OUR COMMITTEE WORKED EXTREMELY WELL TOGETHER AND THE RESULT AND EFFECT IS A 3.1 PERCENT INCREASE. AND I HAVE TERMED THAT TO BE THE "GOLDILOCKS" BUDGET--NOT TOO HOT; NOT TOO COLD. THERE'S GOING TO BE THINGS YOU DON'T LIKE IN THERE; THERE'S GOING TO BE THINGS THAT YOU REALLY LIKE IN THERE, SO. BUT I DO WANT TO THANK SENATOR MELLO. I'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS OVER 40 YEARS AND I'VE BEEN IN SOME BIG ARENAS. I'VE BEEN WITH PEOPLE THAT ARE CONSIDERED KIND OF CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY. AND I WOULD PUT SENATOR MELLO IN THAT CATEGORIZATION. NOT ONLY DO WE KNOW HE'S BRIGHT, ARTICULATE, ALL THAT, BUT HIS LEADERSHIP AND HOW HE BROUGHT ALL OF US TOGETHER ON THIS ONE PROJECT REALLY SPEAKS HIGHLY OF HIS ABILITIES AND I WANT TO ESPECIALLY THANK HIM. HE'S IN THAT ELITE GROUP AND THANK HIM FOR HIS LEADERSHIP. BUT I DO WANT TO COMMENT A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE BUDGET. AS A FRESHMAN, OBVIOUSLY, GOING IN I HAD NO IDEA. I TRIED TO DO A LITTLE BIT OF WORK WITH SENATOR HARMS IN KIND OF A PRIMER-TYPE OF SITUATION. BUT THE VERY SURPRISING THING TO ME WAS IS HOW MUCH THE BUDGET IS FORMULAS, STATUTES, PARTIAL FEDERAL STATUTES OR MANDATES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. AND I THINK AS YOU LOOK AT THE \$490 MILLION INCREASE--AND IT REALLY NETS DOWN TO \$417 MILLION, TO BE MORE ACCURATE--THE TOP OF THE LIST IS TEEOSA AT \$79 MILLION AND THAT'S 16.3 PERCENT. THAT'S A FORMULA. THAT'S A FORMULA SO WE CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT THAT. THE NEXT LARGEST INCREASE IS THE REIMBURSEMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN OUR MEDICAID SYSTEM. AND THAT DROPPED IN COVERAGE FROM 53.27 PERCENT TO 51.16 PERCENT. THE RESULTANT IMPACT WAS \$75 MILLION IMPACT INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES ON OUR BUDGET--AGAIN, A FORMULA SITUATION. THE NEXT ONE DOWN IS MEDICAID. AND MEDICAID IN ITSELF, BEING A VERY LARGE AGENCY AND COVERING A LOT OF THINGS AND GOVERNED BY A LOT OF FED STATUTES AND GOVERNED BY PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENTS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, CAME IN AT \$64 MILLION OR 13.3 PERCENT. FORTY-FIVE PERCENT OF YOUR BUDGET IS MADE UP OF THOSE THREE CATEGORIES, SO GENERATED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTIALLY REIMBURSED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT,... [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR STINNER: ...GENERATED BY PERCENTAGES AND FORMULA. THE NEXT ONE DOWN, OF COURSE, IS 3 PERCENT INCREASES IN UNL AND STATE COLLEGES FOR THEIR OPERATING EXPENSES. THAT'S ABOUT GDP GROWTH WITHIN OUR STATE. I THINK IT'S GENEROUS ENOUGH TO CONTINUE TO ALLOW THEM TO DO

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WHAT THEIR MISSION IS, BUT CERTAINLY WITHIN THE GUISE OF A 3 PERCENT BUDGET. THEN WE WORK OURSELVES DOWN TO, ON PAGE 58 OF YOUR GUIDES, THE SALARIES AND HEALTH BENEFITS IS 10.7 PERCENT, \$52 MILLION INCREASE. SO IN THOSE FIVE AREAS YOU'VE CAPTURED 70 PERCENT OF YOUR BUDGET. SO THERE ISN'T A WHOLE LOT OF FLEXIBILITY. THERE ARE PROGRAMS, THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE WANT TO DO, SOME OF IT TO GENERATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, SOME OF IT CERTAINLY TO COVER PEOPLE IN NEED. SO IF YOU WANT TO BREAK IT DOWN EVEN DIFFERENT... [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB658]

SENATOR STINNER: THANK YOU. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR STINNER. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR NORDQUIST, KUEHN, BOLZ, WATERMEIER, AND OTHERS. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I CERTAINLY WANT TO RISE AND THANK CHAIRMAN MELLO FOR HIS LEADERSHIP. I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE IS ANYONE IN THE BODY THAT PUTS IN MORE TIME AND EFFORT INTO WHAT THEY DO FROM THE START OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS THROUGH THE INTERIM. I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE'S A WAKING HOUR THAT SENATOR MELLO ISN'T THINKING ABOUT THE STATE BUDGET OR TALKING ABOUT THE STATE BUDGET, AND SO MUCH SO THAT I THINK HIS ONE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER IS EXPRESSING HER CONCERNS ABOUT THE FORECASTING BOARD MEETING TOO. SO THE MESSAGE IS BEING TAKEN HOME AS WELL. AND THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, CERTAINLY THE RETURNING MEMBERS BRING A LOT OF EXPERTISE. THE NEW MEMBERS BROUGHT A LOT OF GREAT QUESTIONS AND A WILLINGNESS TO DIG IN WHERE MAYBE SOME OF US HAVE BEEN THROUGH A FEW ISSUES AND HAVE KIND OF PUT THINGS ASIDE AND STARTED MOVING ON TO OTHER THINGS. AND THE NEW MEMBERS STARTED LOOKING AT OLD SPENDING, OLD ISSUES, AGENCIES WITH A FRESH PERSPECTIVE, AND THAT WAS VERY HELPFUL AS WE MOVED THROUGH THE PROCESS. CERTAINLY, I THINK THIS IS A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET. IT'S THE THIRD LOWEST BUDGET GROWTH...BIENNIAL BUDGET GROWTH IN THE LAST 30 YEARS. THE LOWEST, IF YOU TAKE OUT THE TWO RECESSIONARY BUDGETS OF '02-03 AND '10-11 DURING THE GREAT RECESSION AND THEN THE RECESSION AT THE EARLY PART OF THIS DECADE. AND WE'RE GROWING AT 3.1 PERCENT BUT OUR REVENUES, NOW THOSE MIGHT BE PROJECTED TO BE SLIGHTLY DOWNWARD

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THIS AFTERNOON OR THE NUMBERS BE REDUCED, BUT WE'RE GROWING REVENUES AT 4.8 PERCENT PROJECTED THE FIRST YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM AND 4.9 (PERCENT) THE SECOND, BUT YET OUR SPENDING IS LIMITED TO 3.1 (PERCENT). SO THAT OBVIOUSLY IS VERY MUCH A SUSTAINABLE, RESPONSIBLE BUDGET. FOR ME THERE ARE A COUPLE THINGS I WANT TO TALK ABOUT. THERE ARE A LOT OF ISSUE IN THE BUDGET THAT WE'LL DISCUSS WHEN WE GET TO THE ACTUAL BILL. THE TWO PRIORITIES FOR ME, NUMBER ONE, WERE THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT WE HEARD IT FROM OUR CONSTITUENTS LOUD AND CLEAR, THOSE THAT RAN FOR ELECTION IN '14. THOSE THAT RAN IN ANY YEAR PRIOR TO THAT HEARD IT LOUD AND CLEAR FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS. WE HEARD IT ON THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE AND WE MADE IT A PRIORITY. I THINK SENATOR WATERMEIER, SENATOR KINTNER WERE STRONG PROPONENTS OF IT WHEN I MADE THE MOTION TO INCREASE OUR PROPERTY TAX CREDIT \$60 MILLION TO \$200 MILLION. AND THERE'S ONE PERSPECTIVE THAT I WANT TO BRING TO THIS FROM THE NUMBERS THAT WHEN WE LOOK AT WHERE THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT IS GOING. THERE HAS BEEN A SHIFT IN WHERE THE PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS HAVE GONE SINCE THIS PROGRAM WAS CREATED. AND I THINK IT'S AN IMPORTANT PIECE TO NOTE THAT IT ISN'T JUST BEING UNIFORMLY APPLIED ACROSS THE STATE. WHEN THE PROGRAM WAS CREATED IN 2007 AT \$115 MILLION, 24 PERCENT OF IT WENT TO AGRICULTURAL LAND, 55.7 PERCENT OF IT WENT TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. SO \$27 MILLION OF THE \$115 MILLION WENT TO AG, \$64 MILLION WENT TO RESIDENTIAL. AND THIS IS ON PAGE 68 OF YOUR BUDGET BOOK, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED. THE ESTIMATE IN 2015 IS THAT AGRICULTURE IS GOING TO GO FROM THE 24.1 PERCENT UP TO 44.8 PERCENT OF THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT. SO IT'S GOING FROM \$27 MILLION IN 2007 NOW AT \$200 MILLION LEVEL TO \$89 MILLION OF THE \$200 MILLION IS GOING TO AGRICULTURAL LAND. RESIDENTIAL, WHEN WE WERE AT \$115 MILLION IT GOT \$64 MILLION. AT \$200 MILLION IT'S GOING TO GET \$75 MILLION. SO AS WE'VE INCREASED THIS FUND SIGNIFICANTLY, RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS HAVE...RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, AS A WHOLE, HAS SEEN AN 18.4 PERCENT INCREASE IN ITS SHARE... [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ...OF THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, WHEREAS AGRICULTURAL LAND HAS SEEN A 323 PERCENT INCREASE IN ITS SHARE. SO CERTAINLY THIS FUND IS PROVIDING A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS, BUT HOMEOWNERS AND RESIDENTIAL HOMEOWNERS STILL ARE FEELING A BURDEN OF HIGH PROPERTY

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TAXES AND IT'S AN ISSUE WE NEED TO KEEP WORKING ON. THE OTHER PIECE THAT...AND I CAN TALK AT FUTURE MOMENTS. BUT WE DID FUND A LOT IN EDUCATION, BUT SOME OF OUR EDUCATION FUNDING ALSO WAS TARGETED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AT OUR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, AND THEY ARE GREAT DRIVERS FOR OUR FUTURE ECONOMY OF NEBRASKA. AND I'LL GO INTO GREATER DETAIL ON ONE OR TWO OF THOSE INITIATIVES THAT I THINK ARE ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL THAT WE KEEP IN THIS BUDGET AND MOVE FORWARD. ONE OF THOSE THAT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON WITH TAX INCENTIVE AND THROUGH THE BUDGET HAS BEEN THE BIOTECH...TRYING TO GET OUR BIOTECH INDUSTRY STRENGTHENED AND MOVED FORWARD IN THIS STATE.
[LB658]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB658]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. SENATOR KUEHN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR KUEHN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THE COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SO FAR THANKING SENATOR MELLO FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR HELPING THOSE OF US NEW TO THE COMMITTEE HIT THE GROUND RUNNING AND LEARN THIS PROCESS VERY QUICKLY AND GET UP TO SPEED. I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE STAFF OF THE FISCAL OFFICE WHO ARE TRULY ROCK STARS IN WHAT THEY DO AND PROVIDE US INFORMATION ALMOST IN IMPOSSIBLE TURNAROUND TIME AND WITH INCREDIBLE ACCURACY. I'D ALSO BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T THANK MY STAFF, BARB DeRIESE AND NICK KNIHNISKY FOR HELPING A FRESHMAN SENATOR GET UP TO SPEED REALLY QUICKLY WITH THIS NEW JOB ON APPROPRIATIONS, SO I APPRECIATE THEIR ASSISTANCE AS WELL. I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT A COUPLE THINGS RELATIVE TO THIS BUDGET. AS AN OUTSTATE SENATOR, RURAL SENATOR, CENTRAL NEBRASKA SENATOR, HOWEVER YOU WANT TO QUALIFY IT, I DO WANT TO PROVIDE SOME INSIGHT INTO HOW THIS BUDGET IS COMPREHENSIVE IN TERMS OF ITS REACH ACROSS THE STATE. WHILE CERTAINLY WE HAVE CONSOLIDATIONS OF POPULATION IN ONE REGION OF OUR STATE AND WE HAVE NEEDS DISPERSED THROUGHOUT, THIS BUDGET CERTAINLY REPRESENTS THE NEEDS AND REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF ALL NEBRASKANS, BOTH URBAN AND RURAL, BOTH EASTERN

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NEBRASKA ALL THE WAY WEST OUT TO SCOTTSBLUFF. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WAS CHALLENGING FOR ME TO WRAP MY HEAD AROUND AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS PROCESS WAS CHANGING FROM THE IDEA THAT WE ARE SIMPLY SPENDING MONEY TO RECOGNIZING THAT THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS IS REALLY ABOUT PRIORITIZATION AND MAKING STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS. AND I AM PROUD TO SEE IN THE BUDGET THAT YOU ARE CONTEMPLATING TODAY THAT WE HAVE A NUMBER OF STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS THAT ARE CRITICAL TO THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STATE. AND I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT JUST A FEW OF THOSE THAT I THINK ARE REALLY IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION AS WE LOOK AT THE SPENDING WHICH HAS BEEN PROPOSED. ALONG THE STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I HOPE YOU NOTE THERE ARE SOME STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE, WHETHER THAT'S THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS, THROUGH MAIN STREET PROGRAMS. WE HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT IN THIS BUDGET TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITIES LARGE AND SMALL ACROSS THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND YOU WILL SEE THAT SPENDING EXEMPLIFIED IN A NUMBER OF THOSE PROJECTS. THIS DOES NOT MERELY REPRESENT HANDOUTS GIVEN TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES BUT RATHER WERE WELL-THOUGHT-OUT INVESTMENTS TO ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO LEVERAGE STATE DOLLARS TO DEVELOP THEIR ECONOMIES AND DEVELOP THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE ALSO SEE SOME STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION. CERTAINLY, WE SAW A NUMBER OF VERY LARGE REQUESTS ALL ALONG THROUGH THIS BUDGET PROCESS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN OUR UNIVERSITIES, OUR STATE COLLEGES, AND IN OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGES. THE COMMITTEE DID A VERY DELIBERATE, INTENTIONAL JOB OF PRIORITIZING THOSE REQUESTS AND IDENTIFYING STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS THAT WOULD HAVE THE HIGHEST YIELD, BOTH IN THE SHORT AND IN THE LONG TERM WITH BOTH STRATEGIC ONE-TIME INVESTMENTS AS WELL AS INCREASED ONGOING APPROPRIATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, NOT ONLY INVESTING IN UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA IN ITS EASTERN CAMPUSES BUT ALSO EXPANDING OUR HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-KEARNEY WITH OPERATIONAL INCREASES AND INVESTMENTS IN THE NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE AT CURTIS. IT'S NO SECRET THAT AGRICULTURE IS THE NUMBER ONE ECONOMY...NUMBER-ONE INDUSTRY IN NEBRASKA AND OUR INVESTMENTS IN CURTIS REFLECT OUR COMMITMENT TO THAT INDUSTRY. ADDITIONALLY, IN K-12 EDUCATION, MUCH EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON TEEOSA AND THE FORMULA THERE. I WANT TO POINT OUT A COUPLE OF ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MADE IN OTHER AREAS OF EDUCATION OF THIS

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STATE THAT WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF AND BE PROUD OF: INVESTMENTS IN HIGH-ABILITY LEARNERS TO HELP NOT ONLY THE GOOD STUDENTS BUT THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL; INVESTMENTS IN... [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR KUEHN: ...THE IT ACADEMY WHICH PROVIDE...THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT...CREDENTIALING AND ADDITIONAL SKILL SETS FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. FINALLY, I WANT TO POINT OUT, AS YOU LOOK THROUGH THE BUDGET BOOKS, SOME ADDITIONAL CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS BUDGETS THAT INCREASE THE TRANSPARENCY OF THIS PROCESS. WE TOOK A SIGNIFICANT AND A REAL LOOK AT REAPPROPRIATIONS. WE LOOKED AT TRANSPARENCY ISSUES WITH REQUIRING AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY THEIR SPENDING WITHIN A FISCAL YEAR IN A BIENNIUM TO ALLOW US TO HAVE A BETTER HANDLE AS A LEGISLATURE ON OVERSIGHT FOR SPENDING AND TO BETTER BE ABLE TO MANAGE THOSE APPROPRIATIONS GOING FORWARD. SO WITH THAT, I ENCOURAGE YOUR CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THIS BUDGET AND SUPPORT OF IT, AS WELL AS THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND SUPPORT OF THE WORK OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KUEHN. SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANTED TO RISE AND ADD MY VOICE IN SUPPORT OF THE WHOLE BUDGET PACKAGE AS WELL AS IN PRAISE OF BOTH THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND OF THE FISCAL OFFICE. AND PART OF THE REASON I THINK WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE IS THAT THE BUDGET IS NOT JUST A SET OF PRIORITIES OR A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS COMMITTEE. THIS IS OUR BODY'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE AND OUR BODY'S VISION FOR THE STATE. AND SO I WANT TO TAKE JUST A MINUTE AND TAKE A BIGGER PICTURE LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE CRAFTED IN THIS BUDGET PACKAGE. CERTAINLY THERE ARE PIECES IN THIS BUDGET THAT I AM VERY PROUD OF THAT ALIGN WITH OUR PRIORITIES FOR TAX RELIEF, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MAINTAINING GOOD GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER PRIORITIES. BUT I THINK WHEN WE THINK ABOUT THIS IN TERMS OF WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA, WE HAVE A LOT TO BE PROUD OF. FIRST, AS MY COLLEAGUES HAVE REFERENCED, WE ARE CONTINUING TO

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BUILD OUR COMMITMENT TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. AND I WOULD POINT OUT THAT IN YOUR BUDGET BOOK WE ARE BUILDING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF OVER TIME AS WELL AS REFLECTING THE IMPACT OF PREVIOUS TAX RELIEF POLICIES SUCH AS LB987 WHICH WAS PASSED BY THIS BODY LAST YEAR AND PROVIDES TAX RELIEF FOR RETIREES AS WELL AS INDEXING THE BRACKETS. SO I THINK WE DO HAVE A COMMITMENT THAT I AM PROUD OF AND THAT RECOGNIZES WHAT WE HAVE HEARD IN THE TAX MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE. BUT I THINK WE ALSO NEED TO TALK ABOUT OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE AND THIS BUDGET DOES REFLECT OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE. IT REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT TO BUILDING BIOTECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THIS STATE THROUGH THE GLOBAL CENTER AT UNMC AND THROUGH THE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE WITH OUR UNIVERSITIES. IT REFLECTS OUR CARE FOR THE FUTURE IN TERMS OF ELEMENTARY AND K-12 EDUCATION. THAT IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST PRIMARY PIECES OF OUR BUDGET. BUT MORE THAN THAT, COLLEAGUES, THIS BUDGET REPRESENTS REAL THINGS FOR THE REAL PEOPLE THAT WE REALLY REPRESENT AND I'M PROUD OF THAT. WE'VE INCREASED SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING. THOSE ARE ISSUES THAT I CALL KITCHEN TABLE ISSUES. THESE ARE THE ISSUES THAT OUR FAMILIES TALK ABOUT OVER THE KITCHEN TABLE AND THAT HAVE A REAL IMPACT ON THEIR LIFE. AND MORE SPECIAL EDUCATION DOLLARS MEANS BETTER OUTCOMES FOR KIDS WITH DISABILITIES AND LEARNING CHALLENGES. SOME OF THE OTHER PIECES THAT I THINK REFLECT REAL OUTCOMES FOR OUR CONSTITUENTS ARE CONTINUED INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES POPULATION, CONTINUING TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR OUR NURSING FACILITIES. ADDITIONALLY, I THINK WE'VE DONE A GOOD JOB OF PROVIDING A RESPONSE TO SOME OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS THAT WE HAVE FACED IN THE LAST YEAR. AND, COLLEAGUES, PUBLIC SAFETY IS SOMETHING THAT MY CONSTITUENTS VALUE GREATLY. IT'S SOMETHING WE ALMOST HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF TAKING FOR GRANTED IN MY COMMUNITY, AND WE CAN'T TAKE THAT FOR GRANTED. SO SOME OF THE RESOURCES THAT WE'VE PUT INTO OUR CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND THOSE ISSUES ARE NOT JUST ABOUT RESPONDING TO WHAT WE HEARD OVER THE SUMMER. THEY'RE ALSO ABOUT KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE. AND THAT HAS REAL VALUE FOR OUR CONSTITUENTS. SOME OTHER KITCHEN TABLE ISSUES THAT I THINK ARE WRAPPED INTO THIS BUDGET ARE TUITION AFFORDABILITY. AS PROUD AS I AM OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES THAT ARE IN OUR UNIVERSITY PACKAGE, OUR FIRST PRIORITY...MY FIRST PRIORITY IS REMINDING OUR CONSTITUENCIES AND THE UNIVERSITY THAT AFFORDABILITY AND QUALITY ARE OUR FIRST PRIORITIES. AND I THINK WE HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB

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OF WORKING WITH THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS, THE STATE COLLEGE SYSTEMS, AND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO ENSURE THAT TUITION REMAINS AFFORDABLE FOR OUR FAMILIES IN NEBRASKA. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR BOLZ: AND FINALLY, I THINK PART OF THE VISION OF THIS PACKAGE IS MAINTAINING STABILITY FOR THE FUTURE. WE HAVE BEEN THOUGHTFUL ABOUT MAINTAINING OUR CASH RESERVE. AND I THINK, THAT IS SOMETHING AS WE HAVE REFERENCED EARLIER TODAY, THE FORECASTING BOARD IS MEETING AS WE SPEAK. THINGS CAN CHANGE. THINGS CAN ADJUST. SOMETIMES WE CAN PREDICT THEM, SOMETIMES WE CAN'T. BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR DOLLARS AND ARE PROTECTING THE FUTURE STABILITY OF THIS STATE AND NOT JUST LOOKING AT TODAY. SO, COLLEAGUES, I BELIEVE IN THIS BUDGET NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT REFLECTS OUR PRIORITIES, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT HAS REAL MEANING FOR THE PEOPLE WE REPRESENT AND I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED DEBATE THIS MORNING. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. SENATOR WATERMEIER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I GUESS I'LL STAND UP AND GIVE A LOVEFEST AS WELL FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE FISCAL OFFICE. MR. PRESIDENT IS SHAKING HIS HEAD, BUT I CAN'T HELP IT. I WAS GOING TO SPEAK TOWARDS THE MAIN BUDGET LINE BILL BUT I'LL SPEAK TO IT NOW. I REALLY DO WANT TO TAKE MY HAT OFF TO THE FISCAL OFFICE. THEY DO A GREAT JOB AND THEY REALLY CARE. THEY HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN WHAT THEY DO BECAUSE THEY CARE ABOUT THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE MY HAT OFF AS WELL TO SENATOR MELLO AND SENATOR NORDQUIST. THEY HAVE REALLY HELD MY HAND, HELPED ME THROUGH THIS PROCESS, HELPED ME BE A...AS A MENTOR TO ME AND I REALLY APPRECIATE IT. BUT I WAS GOING TO SPEAK TOWARDS THE BIG PICTURE, 50,000-FOOT VIEW OF WHAT WE'VE DONE. I'M KIND OF PROUD OF THIS BUDGET AS WELL. WE'VE DONE SOME BASE BUILDING ON SOME LONG-TERM THINGS, FOR NOT ONLY INFRASTRUCTURE IN A SMALL WAY, BUT I THINK OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN A LOT OF WAYS. INFRASTRUCTURE FOR HEALTHCARE, INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ROADS, BRIDGES, INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRONIC DATABASES. AND WE'RE TAKING CARE OF SOME OF THESE

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THINGS AND WE'RE HAVING DISCUSSIONS ON THEM AND I'M PROUD OF THAT. SO I'D ALMOST HAVE LIKE TWO CONVERSATIONS RIGHT NOW. I'M PROUD OF THE FACT THAT WE CAME OUT WITH A BUDGET THAT'S ANNUALIZED AT 3.1 PERCENT SPENDING INCREASE. THAT'S A GOOD NUMBER. BUT THERE ARE SOME REASONS WHY IT WAS PRETTY EASY TO GET TO THAT POINT THIS YEAR. WE HAD A SPENDING INCREASE LAST BIENNIUM. I THINK, IT AVERAGED 4.5 PERCENT TO 5 PERCENT. I'M ALWAYS A BELIEVER IN TREND LINES. A LOT OF MY BUSINESS IN AGRICULTURE WE WORRY ABOUT TREND LINES. AND SO IT WAS SOMEWHAT EASIER TO COME UP WITH A HISTORICAL 3.1 PERCENT SPENDING GROWTH BECAUSE WE HAD A HIGH NUMBER THE LAST COUPLE YEARS. SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED THAT WERE BUILT-IN NUMBERS INTO THAT, WE HAD A WOODWORK EFFECT BUILT INTO THE MEDICAID EXPENSE. THAT WAS REDUCED FROM \$770 MILLION DOWN TO \$752 MILLION. THOSE ARE THINGS THAT HELPED US TO GET TO THE 3.1 (PERCENT). THAT'S NOT TAKING AWAY ANY OF THE CREDIT AND THE HARD WORK THAT SENATOR MELLO AND THE FISCAL OFFICE AND WE DID AS APPROPRIATIONS. BUT TO BE REALISTIC, YOU CAN LOOK AT THIS IN TWO DIFFERENT WAYS. AND I TRY TO REALLY LOOK AT IT IN THE HIGH, HIGH LEVEL. THE NEXT THING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS WHAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE TO THE FLOOR. WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY \$48.9 MILLION AVAILABLE TO THE FLOOR. AND I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THAT WE NEED TO SPEND \$10 (MILLION) TO \$12 MILLION OF THAT ON PRISON REFORM. THAT'S GOING TO BE A LOCK. WHAT WE SPEND AFTER THAT WILL BE FOUGHT ABOUT IN THIS FLOOR IN ADDITION TO WHAT WE'VE ALREADY PUT INTO THE BUDGET. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, IF WE SPEND THAT \$48 MILLION OUR SPENDING GROWTH ISN'T GOING TO BE 3.1 (PERCENT). IT'S GOING TO BE 3.4 (PERCENT) OR 3.5 (PERCENT). IF WE SPEND IT ALL IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM--I CALCULATED IT OUT ROUGHLY-- YOU COULD ARGUE THAT WE WOULD HAVE A 3.7 PERCENT SPENDING GROWTH INCREASE OVER OUR TWO-YEAR BUDGET. THAT'S IF YOU WERE TO SPEND IT ALL IN THE SECOND YEAR, WHICH IS NOT FAIR, BUT YOU COULD LOOK AT IT IN THAT REGARD. SO WHAT I'M TELLING YOU TODAY IS THAT TO BE MINDFUL. IN MY BUSINESS OF AGRICULTURE I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR MARKETING. AND I'M NEVER HAPPY WITH \$8 CORN, I'M NEVER HAPPY WITH \$12 BEANS BECAUSE I WANT \$9 AND I WANT \$13. IT'S A LITTLE UNFAIR TO SAY, WHAT A IS FAIR NUMBER? IS 3.1 (PERCENT) FAIR? IS 3.1 GOOD? IT'S ALL RELATIVE TO WHERE WE'VE BEEN AT. IF WE'D HAVE COME IN HERE WITH A 2.5 PERCENT SPENDING INCREASE, THERE ARE THOSE IN THIS BODY THAT WOULD SAY, THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, I WANT 2 PERCENT. LAST YEAR WE CAME IN AT 4.5 (PERCENT) OR 5.3 (PERCENT) AND THAT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. WE WANTED 5 (PERCENT). SO THOSE NUMBERS ARE ALL RELATIVE TO WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED. AND THE LAST THING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM, THE

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FORECASTING BOARD TODAY. WE SHOULD HAVE PROBABLY WENT AROUND AND TOOK A POLL OF WHAT EVERYBODY'S NUMBER IS. AND I'LL SCARE PEOPLE INTO TELLING YOU THAT MY NUMBER, THE BIENNIAL NUMBER THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE IN THE REDUCED REVENUE IS NOT GOING TO BE...IT A MATTER OF WHETHER IT'S OVER OR UNDER A \$100 MILLION. AND I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE \$140 MILLION THAT WE'LL HAVE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT OVER A BIENNIAL PERIOD. I DON'T WANT TO END ON A NEGATIVE NOTE AND I MEANT TO SPEAK TOWARDS THE GENERAL BUDGET BILL, BUT I WANTED TO GET US STARTED ON THAT THINKING PROCESS. TO ME IT COMES DOWN TO PRIORITIES. MY PRIORITIES ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE IF WE HAVE A REVENUE FORECAST THAT REDUCES OUR PROJECTED REVENUES BY \$140 MILLION. IT'S STILL GOING TO BE... [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: ...THE SAME PRIORITIES I HAD ON JANUARY 5 OF THIS YEAR, THE SAME THINGS THAT WE DID IN THE BUDGET. I'M PROUD OF THOSE THINGS. BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE A GENERAL, ACROSS-THE-BOARD BUDGET CUT TO GET US TO SAVE THAT \$70 MILLION A YEAR. I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PRIORITIZE, AND I'LL BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME TOUGH DECISIONS TO MAKE. AND THEN IT COMES DOWN TO WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR WATERMEIER. SENATOR KEN HAAR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR HAAR: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I'M A TRIPLE SENIOR IN THIS BODY. IN TERMS OF AGE THERE'S A SMALL GROUP OF US WHO ARE 70 AND OVER. AND UNLIKE THE REST OF YOU THAT CAN JUST ORDER WATER AND COFFEE AND HOT CHOCOLATE AND STUFF, WE CAN ORDER GERITOL, AND WE DO. I'M ALSO IN THE SENIOR CLASS AND A SENIOR, IN A WAY, ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH I WAS ALSO A FIRST-YEAR PERSON ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE--QUITE A LEARNING EXPERIENCE. AND I WANT TO START WITH THANK-YOUS. I WANT TO THANK SENATOR MELLO, WHO I CONSIDER AN EXTRAORDINARY LEADER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. AND HE HAS BEEN MY MENTOR. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE THAT I SERVED WITH AND SPENT A LOT OF HOURS IN THAT LITTLE CLOSED ROOM GETTING TO KNOW THEM. AND IT'S SORT OF STRANGE AND SOMETIMES IT'S A

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GOOD REMINDER TO ME THAT WE CAN'T JUST LABEL PEOPLE WITH A LABEL LIKE CONSERVATIVE OR LIBERAL, BUT WE'RE ALL MULTIFACETED PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT PRIORITIES AND IMPORTANT THINGS TO LISTEN TO. SO I WANT TO THANK THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. I WANT TO THANK THE FISCAL OFFICE. I DROVE SOME OF THEM CRAZY A NUMBER OF TIMES, ESPECIALLY ON THE LOTTERY FUNDING. THEY'RE A GREAT HELP. MY STAFF, THE REQUESTS I MADE OF THEM, SOMETIMES ON A TEN-MINUTE NOTICE OF WHAT I NEEDED FOR APPROPRIATIONS. AND, OF COURSE, MY WIFE FOR LISTENING TO ME GRUMBLE AND GRIPE AT TIMES. AND THEN I WANT TO THANK THE STATE WORKERS. YOU KNOW, BEING ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE YOU LOOK AT THE REQUESTS AND ALL OF US JUST SORT OF AT TIMES HUMPED OUR SHOULDERS DOWN AND SAID, MY GOD YOU GIVE PEOPLE MORE MONEY AND ALL THEY DO IS ASK FOR MORE MONEY, YOU KNOW, YEAR AFTER YEAR AFTER YEAR. AND TO PUT THAT A LITTLE IN PERSPECTIVE, A NUMBER OF CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, NEW CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS CAME IN ASKING FOR MORE STAFF MEMBERS TO DO THEIR JOB AND SAYING THAT THEY NEEDED TO PAY THEIR STAFF MEMBERS MORE TO BE ON PAR TO KEEP GOOD STAFF MEMBERS BECAUSE THEY WERE BEING TAKEN AWAY BY OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. AND SO I WANT TO THANK THE STAFFS BECAUSE THEY'RE ALWAYS...AND THE AGENCIES. THEY'RE ALWAYS ASKING FOR MORE MONEY AND THAT'S BECAUSE THEY WANT TO DO THE BEST JOB THEY CAN. AND I THINK SO OFTEN WE FORGET THAT, THAT YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO SHOULDN'T BE THERE, BUT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THAT WORK FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND ALSO OUR LOCAL SUBDIVISIONS ARE NOT IN THOSE JOBS BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY JOB THEY COULD FIND, BUT BECAUSE THEY CARE ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE DOING. THEY CARE ABOUT PEOPLE. THEY CARE ABOUT THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND SO WHEN AGENCIES ASK FOR MORE MONEY FOR HIGHER SALARIES FOR THEIR STAFFING AND SO ON IT'S BECAUSE THEY CARE. IT'S BECAUSE THEY WANT TO DO A BETTER JOB. AND THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKES OUR JOB ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE HAVE TO SORT THROUGH THAT. AND RECOGNIZING THAT, WE STILL HAVE TO SAY, YOU CAN'T GET WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR ALL THE TIME. BEING ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND ESPECIALLY LOOKING AT THE STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE IN THE PAST YEAR WITH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND... [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR HAAR: THANK YOU...AND CORRECTIONS, I WANT TO JUST SAY AGAIN THAT THE LEGISLATURE HAS AN IMPORTANT JOB IN OVERSIGHT. WE DON'T JUST

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CREATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY OF OVERSIGHT. AND THEN FINALLY, SENATOR BOLZ, IN PARTICULAR, TALKED ABOUT VISION. MY VISION WOULD BE THAT WE HAVE TO PLAN FOR THE DAY WHEN WE SPEND MORE ON PRESCHOOLS THAN WE DO ON OUR PRISONS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HAAR. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.)
SENATOR HILKEMANN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. SPEAKER. IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE BEEN THE VICE CHAIR OF APPROPRIATIONS THIS LAST YEAR. TRULY, A VERY LEARNING PROCESS FOR ME AS NEVER HAVING BEEN A PART OF SUCH A GROUP. EVERY PHASE OF IT WAS EYE OPENING FOR ME IN MANY WAYS. AND I WAS REALLY SURPRISED BY THE DIVERSITY OF THE GROUP AND HOW THAT DIVERSITY WORKED TOGETHER TO PUT TOGETHER THIS BUDGET. AND HOW WE JUST CAME TOGETHER IN AN AGREEMENT. SO THAT WAS AN IMPORTANT THING THAT'S THERE. YOU KNOW, YOU START OFF...MY SEATMATE HERE, SENATOR GROENE, WOULD COME AND SAID, HAVE YOU GOT IT UNDER 2 PERCENT? HAVE YOU GOT IT UNDER 2 PERCENT? I SAID, I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE THE PROCESS IS A VERY FAIR PROCESS THAT WE USE AS WE GO THROUGH AGENCY BY AGENCY. AND YOU LEARN WHAT THOSE AGENCIES DO. AND WE HAD THIS...THERE WAS A DISCUSSION, WELL, SHOULDN'T WE HAVE A RUNNING TOTAL THAT GOES ON? AND OUR CHAIRMAN SAID, NO, IT'S NOT FAIR IF WE HAVE THE RUNNING TOTAL FOR THE AGENCIES THAT COME UP LATER ON THE LINE. AND AS THE WHOLE PROCESS UNFOLDS, YOU FIND OUT THE GREAT WISDOM OF THAT, OF HAVING DONE IT AS WE DID. SO IT IS A WONDERFUL PROCESS. IT'S A PROCESS THAT YOU LEARN AS YOU'RE GOING THROUGH. YOU HAVE A STATE AGENCY AND YOU SAY THEY WANT OVER \$1 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR A RUNWAY AT THE SCRIBNER AIRPORT. AND YOU SAY, OH, MY GOSH, WHY WOULD WE BE SPENDING \$1 MILLION ON A RUNWAY AT SCRIBNER? AND THEN YOU FIND OUT THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT HAPPEN WITHIN THE STATE THAT ARE CASH FUNDED AND THAT THEY SPEND ON THEIR OWN DOLLARS THAT THEY RAISED FROM THOSE PARTICULAR...SO YOU FIND OUT THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT THE BEST THING IS YOU GO AHEAD AND CONTINUE TO SPEND THE MAINTENANCE ON IT BECAUSE IT'S MORE COSTLY TO SELL THE STATE AIRPORTS THAN TO MAINTAIN THE STATE AIRPORTS AND THERE'S BENEFIT IN THOSE. SO THAT WAS A REAL LEARNING PROCESS FOR ME. AND THEN THERE'S THAT PROCESS OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS. YOU HAVE THE PEOPLE COME IN WITH ALL THESE REQUESTS. I THINK ONE AFTERNOON WE HAD OVER \$100 MILLION IN REQUESTS ALONE. AND HOW DO YOU SEPARATE THOSE OUT? AND THEN WHEN WE WENT BACK AND WE

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PROCESSED THESE, I THOUGHT IT WAS INTERESTING THAT WE REMEMBERED THOSE THINGS THAT...THROUGH THAT PROCESS WHICH ARE THE ONES THAT WE WANT TO INCLUDE, WHICH ARE THE ONES WE SHOULD NOT INCLUDE BECAUSE WE HAVE UNLIMITED REQUESTS BUT FINITE RESOURCES? AND I THOUGHT THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS THAT THIS GROUP WENT THROUGH WAS EXCELLENT. SO I WANT ALL OF YOU TO KNOW I THINK THAT THE BUDGET WE CAME UP WITH IS FAIR TO ALL OF THE GROUPS INVOLVED AND TO THE STATE. NOT EVERYBODY GOT WHAT THEY WANTED, CERTAINLY. AND I APPRECIATED THE OPENNESS THAT WE HAD TO THE REQUESTS THAT WE HAD. AND I AM SO APPRECIATIVE, AS HAS BEEN MENTIONED, THE FISCAL OFFICE STAFF. THEY WERE AVAILABLE. THERE WERE MORNINGS I WOULD BE...THE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING I'D HAVE SOME CLARIFICATION THAT I WANTED. THEY WERE VERY INFORMATIVE TO HELP US OUT THERE. SO THOSE ARE JUST THE BASIC COMMENTS THAT I WANT TO MAKE. IT WAS A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS PART OF THIS COMMITTEE. AND... [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: ...MY HAT IS OFF TO CHAIRMAN MELLO. HE DID A FANTASTIC JOB PULLING THIS TOGETHER. I HOPE THAT CERTAINLY THE BUDGET WILL BE DISCUSSED. THERE ARE CERTAINLY THINGS THAT YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO LIKE ABOUT IT. BUT I THINK IT GIVES A CLEAR VISION TO MOVE NEBRASKA FORWARD WITH THE RESOURCES THAT WE HAVE. ONE OF THE THINGS I CAMPAIGNED ON IS THAT WE NEED TO SPEND OUR MONEY WISELY. BEING ON THAT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, I REALLY THINK THAT WE WORKED WITH THAT MANTRA OVER AND OVER AGAIN, SPENDING OUR MONEY WISELY. AND I BELIEVE THAT THAT'S WHAT WE DID. AND A LOT OF US, I KNOW, WE VISITED THE PRISONS. I WENT TO UNO TO SEE ONE OF THE PROJECTS THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT. WE VISITED THE LEARNING COMMUNITY. THESE ARE THINGS THAT WE NEEDED TO DO ON APPROPRIATIONS TO WORK TOGETHER TO EDUCATE OURSELVES TO COME UP WITH THE BUDGET THAT WE HAVE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. SPEAKER. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATORS GROENE, KRIST, AND OTHERS. SENATOR GROENE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. THAT'S WHY I CAME TO LINCOLN, SPENDING AND BUDGETS,

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HELPING PEOPLE KEEP THEIR MONEY IN THEIR POCKETS, MAKE SURE WE DON'T SPEND AND DO THINGS FOR THEM THEY DIDN'T EVEN ASK FOR. I WANT TO THANK MIKE CALVERT. I GO WAY BACK WITH HIM AS A CITIZEN TAXPAYER ORGANIZATION. I ALWAYS ADMIRER HIS OFFICE. THEY ARE TRUE PUBLIC SERVANTS. THEY TALK TO ANYBODY. THEY TREAT A CITIZEN AS WELL AS THEY DO A SENATOR WHEN YOU ASK FOR INFORMATION. THEY ARE PUBLIC SERVANTS IN THAT OFFICE IN THE FISCAL OFFICE. I WANT TO THANK THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. I'M GOING TO TRY TO GET ON THAT COMMITTEE BECAUSE I WANT TO BE IN A LOVEFEST BECAUSE I JUST HAD AN EXEC IN EDUCATION. AND THE BEST I CAN SAY ABOUT THAT...OUR COMMITTEE IS WE'RE FRIENDLY. BUT ANYWAY, NO, THEY DID WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DO. THEY LISTENED TO A LOT OF PEOPLE WITH THEIR HANDS OUT. IT'S A HARD JOB. THEY HEAR A LOT OF SOB STORIES, THEY HEAR ABOUT HOW WE'RE THE GREATEST ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD AND WE CAN SAVE THE STATE OF NEBRASKA IF YOU JUST GIVE US A FEW MORE MILLION DOLLARS. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT I CAME HERE AS A TAXPAYER. I CAME HERE AS ONE OF THAT GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO WE PAY A LOT. WE PAY OUR TAXES. WE TRY NOT TO USE GOVERNMENT SERVICES. WE DON'T MIND PAYING MORE TAXES THAN WHAT WE USE GOVERNMENT SERVICES, BUT WE WANT SOME CONSIDERATION THAT THIS BODY TAKES A FISCAL LOOK AND A HARD LOOK AT SPENDING. I...EXCUSE ME, I LOST ONE OF MY PAPERS. I'VE GOT SOME BIG QUESTIONS AND I'LL CONTINUE TO ASK THEM AS 1 SENATOR OUT OF 49 ABOUT THIS BUDGET. I ALWAYS...I'VE COME TO DISCOVER THAT A LOT OF TAX DOLLARS SPENT ARE NOT IN THE NUMBERS, IN THE 3.1 PERCENT. NOBODY IS TRYING TO HIDE ANYTHING OR SOMEBODY IN PAST UNICAMERALS MADE THE FORMULA THAT THEY FIGURE, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FIGURES, AND THE FISCAL OFFICE USES TO FIGURE IT AT 3.1 PERCENT. BUT TAXPAYERS OUT THERE, \$200 MILLION OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS AND, YES, THEY'RE GIVING THEM BACK BUT YOU MIGHT NOT BE GETTING A ONE-TO-ONE RATIO OF WHAT YOU PAID IN INCOME AND SALES TAX BACK ON YOUR PROPERTY TAXES IF ALL YOU DO IS LIVE IN AN APARTMENT OR A HOUSE THAT'S VALUED AT \$50,000. BUT THE \$200 MILLION THAT'S THE PROPERTY TAX REBATE IS NOT IN THAT 3.1 PERCENT, FOLKS. I CALL THAT SPENDING. THERE USED TO BE A LINE ON THE BUDGET THAT SAID, AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THAT USED TO BE IN THERE. THAT WAS OFFSETTING PROPERTY TAXES. THIS IS JUST ANOTHER WAY TO DO IT. BUT THAT \$200 MILLION ISN'T IN THERE, THAT 3.1 PERCENT. THE \$55.7 MILLION OUT OF THE CASH RESERVES IS NOT IN THAT 3.1 PERCENT. IN MY BUDGET, IF I HAVE SAVINGS AND I SPEND IT THE NEXT YEAR, IT SHOWS UP IN MY SPENDING. THAT JUST DISAPPEARS BETWEEN FISCAL YEARS. AND I WON'T GO INTO THE DETAILS YET. WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO CHAT ABOUT THE \$55.7 MILLION. THE \$49 MILLION IMAGINARY... [LB658]

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SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB658]

SENATOR GROENE: ...THE \$49 MILLION IMAGINARY NUMBER OF WHAT WE CAN SPEND ON THE FLOOR, IF WE SPEND THAT, THAT'S NOT IN THE 3.1 PERCENT. IT'S IMAGINARY DOLLARS BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT AT 1:00 IF IT IS. BUT THAT'S NOT IN THE...IF WE SPEND THAT \$49 (MILLION), THAT INCREASES THE 3.1 PERCENT. MY FIGURES SHOW THAT IF YOU THROW IT ALL IN THERE, NEXT YEAR IT'S A 6.1 PERCENT INCREASE. THE FOLLOWING YEAR IT'S A 4.1 (PERCENT), WITH AN AVERAGE OF 5.1 (PERCENT), NOT 3.1 (PERCENT). AND THAT'S ON TOP OF A 6-PLUS SPENDING. MONEY COMPOUNDS, INTEREST COMPOUNDS, BUDGETS COMPOUND. WE NEED TO CONTROL SPENDING. AND I WILL BADGER ON IT, I WILL LECTURE ON IT, I WILL TALK ON IT UNTIL I TURN BLUE. BUT LET'S GET THE NUMBERS TRUE. LET'S TELL THE TAXPAYERS WHAT WE'RE ACTUALLY SPENDING. IT ISN'T 3.1 PERCENT. IT'S 5.1 PERCENT. AND THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE \$200 MILLION. THAT 5.1 PERCENT IS ONLY THE \$60 MILLION WE'RE ADDING TO THE \$140 (MILLION) THAT WAS ALREADY IN THE NUMBER. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB658]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. AND GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I'LL START OFF BY THANKING THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK. AND THEN I HAVE A MESSAGE THAT I NEED TO PUT ON THE RECORD AND I HOPE THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS LISTENING THIS MORNING. VETO CAME IN YESTERDAY ON LB89. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE VETO AND THE CONVERSATIONS THAT WENT ON IN THE LAST FEW DAYS ARE EXTREMELY APPROPRIATE, EXTREMELY APPROPRIATE. BUT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE WHY THIS APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IS SUCCEEDING AT DOING WHAT THEY'RE DOING. IT'S CALLED THE COMMITTEE PROCESS. BILLS ARE HEARD IN COMMITTEE. THEY ARE DEBATED IN COMMITTEE. THEY ARE COORDINATED IN COMMITTEE. THEY ARE VOTED OUT AND AMENDED IN COMMITTEE. AND THEY COME HERE TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION AND THERE ARE THREE ROUNDS OF DEBATE. I WANT TO REMIND THE PRO OFFICE, OUR PHONE NUMBERS ARE IN THE BOOK. IF YOU HAVE AN ISSUE WITH WHAT'S GOING ON, YOU SHOULD NOT BACK YOUR GOVERNOR INTO A CORNER AT MIDNIGHT SO HE HAS TO VETO A BILL THAT WAS PERFECTLY

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NEGOTIABLE ON ANY ONE OF THREE ROUNDS. IF THIS WERE BUSINESS, I WOULD SAY THAT GOVERNOR RICKETTS, MR. RICKETTS, MAY HAVE WORDS WITH THOSE WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF HIS PRO. IF THEY BELONGED TO ME, ONE OF THEM WOULD NOT BE HERE TODAY BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE BACKED ME INTO A CORNER. THE REASON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WORKS IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO COME TO US FOR MONEY. THEY HAVE TO COME TO US FOR APPROPRIATIONS. THEY HAVE TO TALK TO US. THEY HAVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH US. DO THEY NOT RESPECT THE REST OF THE COMMITTEES? DEMAND THE RESPECT FOR YOUR COMMITTEE IF YOU'RE A COMMITTEE CHAIR. BE PROACTIVE. CALL THE FOLKS IN PRO AND SAY, DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM? I DO. IT DIDN'T WORK IN THE HEINEMAN ADMINISTRATION. THEY NEVER PICKED UP THE PHONE AND RETURNED A PHONE CALL. BUT I THOUGHT THIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE DIFFERENT. MY HOPE IS, IT STILL WILL BE DIFFERENT. BUT YOU NEED TO RESPECT THE COMMITTEE PROCESS THAT HAPPENS HERE. BACK TO POINT, THANK YOU, APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, FOR DOING SUCH A GREAT JOB. IT WILL MAKE OUR JOB OF DEBATING HERE AND MAYBE FRIDAY AND MAYBE ON THE NEXT FEW DAYS EVEN BETTER. AND I WILL GUARANTEE YOU WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE BY NOON TOMORROW SO YOU CAN ADJUST BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT BASED UPON WHAT THE FORECAST BOARD IS GOING TO GIVE YOU BECAUSE I KNOW YOU HAVE A LOT OF HARD WORK LEFT TO DO. THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION. AND I HOPE THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS THE VOLUME UP. [LB658 LB89]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB658]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I'D JUST LIKE TO THANK THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE WAY THEY HANDLED THIS BUDGET. I HAVEN'T BEEN INVOLVED BUT I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOME OF MY CLASSMATES AND I THINK THEY'VE COME TOGETHER VERY WELL ON THIS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THOUGH, I THINK IT BEHOOVES US TO MAKE SURE THAT THE \$200 MILLION THAT THEY'VE GOT IN THERE FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FUND STAYS IN THERE. AND I'D LIKE TO COMPLIMENT THEM ON THAT. YOU KNOW, THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS WE'VE TALKED ABOUT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND IT DIDN'T APPEAR THAT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. BUT THE \$200 MILLION A YEAR THAT THEY'VE PLEDGED OVER THE BIENNIUM IS IMPORTANT TO OUR RURAL ECONOMY AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE COMMUNITIES THAT PAY THE PROPERTY TAXES. SO THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING THAT \$200 MILLION PER YEAR. AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE THE BODY, AS WE GET INTO THIS, THAT WE

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HOLD FAST ON THAT, AND THAT WE GIVE OUR APPROPRIATIONS, OUR REVENUE COMMITTEE, AND OUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE AN OPPORTUNITY THIS SUMMER TO REALLY LOOK AT HOW WE FUND EDUCATION AND HOW WE PAY FOR THINGS IN THIS STATE. AND WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS. THEY DID A GREAT JOB. THEY INCREASED IT SIGNIFICANTLY. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT OUR TAXPAYERS KNOW THAT WE'RE LISTENING TO THEM. THANK YOU. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLTERMAN. SEEING NO OTHER MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LB658. [LB658]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND I KNOW, WHILE THIS SPECIFIC BILL DEALS WITH LEGISLATIVE SALARIES, I AM GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE HARD WORK THAT THE OTHER EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS DONE THROUGHOUT THE LAST FOUR MONTHS TO HELP US CRAFT THIS BLUEPRINT THAT WE'LL BE DISCUSSING OVER THE NEXT SIX BILLS. JUST AS A REMINDER, LB658 IS AN APPROPRIATIONS BILL PER CONSTITUTION IN REGARDS TO OUR \$12,000 A YEAR ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SALARY PAY. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE FOR LB658. AND I KNOW...AS WE DISCUSS OTHER BUDGET ITEMS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GRAB ME. WE CAN TRY, IF POSSIBLE, WHEN POSSIBLE, DIRECT THOSE DEBATES ON TO SPECIFIC BILLS TO GIVE SENATORS MORE DIRECTION IN REGARDS TO AREAS IN THEIR BUDGET BOOK OR SPECIFIC ITEMS WITHIN THE ACTUAL BUDGET AMENDMENT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS PUT FORWARD. WITH THAT, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING TO LB658. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE BODY IS, SHALL LB658 ADVANCE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB658]

CLERK: 33 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB658. [LB658]

SENATOR COASH: LB658 DOES ADVANCE. NEXT ITEM, MR. CLERK. [LB658]

CLERK: LB659 IS A BILL BY THE SPEAKER INTRODUCED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 22, REFERRED TO THE

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. (AM1191, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1282.) [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB659. [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I'D LIKE TO WAIVE, MR. SPEAKER, AND GO DIRECTLY TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IF POSSIBLE. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: MR. CLERK, DO YOU HAVE AN AMENDMENT? [LB659]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OFFERS AM1191. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON AM1191. [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. LB659 PROVIDES FOR THE FUNDING OF THE SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF CERTAIN STATE OFFICERS AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE III, SECTION 22 OF THE NEBRASKA STATE CONSTITUTION AS WELL AS CURRENT STATE STATUTES. THE BILL INCLUDES APPROPRIATIONS FOR ALL SALARIES OF ALL JUDGES, ELECTED CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, THE PAROLE BOARD, AND THE TAX COMMISSIONER. LB659 DOES CONTAIN AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IN FRONT OF YOU, AM1191, WOULD BECOME THE UNDERLYING BILL. THE AMENDMENT PROVIDES FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED FUNDING LEVELS WITH MOST ADJUSTMENTS FROM THE GREEN COPY AMOUNTS BEING MINOR DIFFERENCES DUE TO THE CALCULATION OF BENEFITS. I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADVANCE AM1191 AND LB659. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. MR. CLERK. [LB659]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS WITH FA55. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1338.) [LB659]

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SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR FLOOR AMENDMENT. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, FOR CLARIFICATION, ONE OF THESE PORTIONS GOES TO PAGE 3. THE SECOND GOES TO PAGE 4. AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THEM SEPARATELY, SO I WOULD LIKE THERE TO BE TWO AMENDMENTS, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE ON ONE SHEET. AND THE FIRST ONE WILL BE THAT FOUND ON PAGE 3 OF AM1191. HERE IS WHAT I AM DOING: I'M VENTING MY SPLEEN. I AM SICK OF THE GOVERNOR, I'M DISGUSTED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND I HAVE VERY LITTLE RESPECT FOR THE WAY MY COLLEAGUES ARE ALLOWING THE LEGISLATURE TO BE TOTALLY DISREGARDED, DISRESPECTED, RENDERED NUGATORY AND LESS. SO HERE'S WHAT MY FIRST AMENDMENT IS GOING TO DO. ON PAGE 3, IF YOU LOOK AT LINES 13 AND 14, I AM STRIKING IN LINE 13, FOR FY '15-16, \$145,625...I MEANT, YOU SEE WHAT'S BEING STRICKEN. AND HERE'S WHAT I WILL PUT IN ITS PLACE: \$145,625 AND FOR FY '17, \$146,874. I AM REDUCING THAT APPROPRIATION BY \$5. I'M OFFERING THIS AMENDMENT AND I'M GOING TO TAKE IT TO A VOTE. I'M SERIOUS. WE'RE DEALING WITH SERIOUS BUSINESS HERE THIS MORNING, THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY. I THINK THERE OUGHT TO BE A GREATER REDUCTION BUT I'M NOT ONE WHO IS A FAN OF REDUCING THE SALARIES OF THESE OFFICERS. SO THIS IS A NEGLIGIBLE AMOUNT. AS THE PHILOSOPHERS MIGHT SAY, IT IS DE MINIMUS. WHEN WE HAVE A SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE VERY SERIOUS WORK IS DONE AND THE GOVERNOR IN HIS IGNORANCE, IN HIS ARROGANCE, IN HIS SMALL-MINDED INSENSITIVITY-- AND I MEAN EVERY WORD OF IT--HE'S NOTHING BUT A MAN AND NOT A VERY GOOD MAN AT THAT. WHEN HE WILL THROW THAT VETO OVER HERE ON THE KIND OF BILL THAT HE CHOSE TO VETO, I DIDN'T KNOW HIS STATURE COULD BE ANY LESS IN MY ESTIMATION THAN IT HAD BEEN ALREADY. THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS WRONG WITH HIM, BUT ONE IS THAT HE WAS BORN INTO A RICH FAMILY. HE WAS A SPOILED BRAT AND NOW HE'S A SPOILED ADULT. BUT HE REMINDS ME OF AN INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED IN THE "BIBBLE" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. SEE, NOT ONLY IS THE GOVERNOR GOING TO BE ANGRY TODAY BUT SOME OF YOU ALL ARE, TOO, BECAUSE AN ATTACK AGAINST YOUR GOVERNOR IS AN ATTACK AGAINST YOU, WHICH IS FOOLISH. THERE WAS A CENTURION WHO CAME TO JESUS, AND A CENTURION WAS A MEMBER OF THE ROMAN ARMY. ROMANS WERE VERY SUPERSTITIOUS, AS ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY. SO WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THIS ITINERANT JEW RUNNING AROUND THE COUNTRY MAKING DEAD PEOPLE COME BACK ALIVE, HEALING PEOPLE WHO HAD EVERYTHING FROM DEVILS TO DEAFNESS TO BLINDNESS, HE DECIDED HE WANTED SOMETHING DONE. SO HE SENT SOMEBODY TO TALK TO JESUS, THEN

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DECIDED HE'D GO HIMSELF. SO HE SAID, JESUS, I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE THE KIND OF CAT I COULD HANG OUT WITH IF I HAD SOME SPARE TIME. SEE, I'M A MILITARY MAN AND I BELIEVE IN GETTING THINGS DONE. AND YOU, IN YOUR REALM, GET THINGS DONE. SO HERE'S WHAT I'M TELLING YOU I WANT FROM YOU. I'VE GOT A SERVANT WHO IS SICK AND I WANT YOU TO HEAL HIM. AND JESUS SAID, OKAY, PARTNER, TAKE ME TO YOUR HOUSE. AND THE CENTURION SAID, WE DON'T NEED TO DO THAT. FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM CREDIBLE SOURCES, YOU HAVE POWER. I AM PLACED OVER MAN. I AM A MAN SET IN AUTHORITY. I SAY TO THIS ONE, COME, AND HE COMES. I SAY TO THAT ONE, GO, AND HE GOES. SO ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE THE WORD AND THE JOB IS DONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME TO MY HOUSE. AND AS JESUS USUALLY WOULD SAY, HOW GREAT THIS MAN'S FAITH WAS AND WOULD USE IT AS A CHANCE TO TEACH THE OTHERS. GOVERNOR RICKETTS SAYS, I'M A RICH MAN. I HAD POWER IN MY DADDY'S COMPANY. PEOPLE WERE AFRAID OF ME BECAUSE WHEN THEY SAW ME, THEY SAW MY DADDY. AND IF I SAID TO THIS ONE, GO, HE WENT. IF I SAID TO THIS ONE, COME, SHE WOULD COME. AND NOW THAT I'M GOVERNOR, THE SAME THING APPLIES TO THAT PIPSQUEAK LEGISLATURE, A BUNCH OF CLOWNS, BUFFOONS, MISGUIDED IDIOTS WHO ARE THE TOOLS OF LOBBYISTS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. SO I SAY TO THEM, GO, AND THEY GO. I TELL THEM, COME, AND THEY COME BECAUSE I AM A MAN SET UNDER AUTHORITY AND THEY KNOW IT. I WILL UNRAVEL AND UNDO EVERYTHING THAT THEY'VE DONE AND THEY DARE NOT WHIMPER. I'LL SHOW THEM WHO IS BOSS HERE. ONE THING ABOUT HIM, HE'S CARRYING THE SAME ARROGANT, DISRESPECTFUL, INSENSITIVE ATTITUDE THAT HE SHOWED IN HIS BUSINESS LIFE IN HIS DADDY'S BUSINESSES; HE'S TAKEN IT TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR. AND I'M GOING TO WATCH AND SEE HOW MY COLLEAGUES BEHAVE, WHETHER HIS ASSESSMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. HE HAS THROWN DOWN THE GAUNTLET. THIS LEGISLATURE, AS AN INSTITUTION, WAS GUTTED AND DESTROYED BY TERM LIMITS. IT WAS A DESTRUCTION THAT CAN NEVER BE REMEDIED. THIS IS A ONE-HOUSE LEGISLATURE. AND TO SHOW HOW LITTLE SOME PEOPLE UNDERSTAND, WHEN SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S BILL DEALING WITH TERM LIMITS WAS BEFORE US SOME PEOPLE SAID, WELL, I READ IN POLLS WHERE THE AVERAGE TENURE OF A SENATOR WAS FIVE OR EIGHT, WHATEVER THE NUMBER OF YEARS WERE. AND THAT'S COVERED RIGHT NOW. BUT HERE'S WHAT THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND AND THEY DON'T THINK. THEY DON'T HAVE ANY VISION. THEY CANNOT SEE BEYOND THE INNER SURFACE OF THEIR EYELIDS. AND IF YOU'RE UPSET WITH ME, THAT IS GOOD BECAUSE I'M DOING MY JOB. WHEN YOU GET ANGRY, THAT IS A REVOLUTIONARY SENTIMENT BECAUSE IT MEANS YOU ARE NOT SKATING ON THE SURFACE LIKE THE WATER BUG. YOU ARE NOW PENETRATING THE SURFACE

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TENSION OF THAT WATER THAT SUPPORTS YOUR WEIGHT ORDINARILY AND YOU JUST SKITTER HERE AND THERE. NOW YOU'VE FALLEN BELOW THE SURFACE AND YOU SEE THERE'S MUCH MORE UNDER THERE THAN YOU KNEW ABOUT THAT WAS ABOVE IT. [LB659]

SENATOR GLOOR PRESIDING

SENATOR GLOOR: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE A CHANCE TO FINISH IT ALL NOW BUT I'M GOING TO TURN MY LIGHT ON. BUT HERE'S WHAT I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT, HOW THE LEGISLATURE WAS GUTTED AND DESTROYED AND ABOUT THAT AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT SENATORS WERE SERVING, BEFORE TERM LIMITS ANYWAY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON FA55 TO AM1191. WE MOVE TO FLOOR DEBATE. SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND, AGAIN, GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. IT WOULD BE VERY EASY FOR ME TO STAND UP AND SUPPORT A REDUCTION OF \$5 IF ONLY A PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCE OF OPINION. I DON'T THINK THAT I CAN AND HERE ARE THE REASONS WHY. THE BUDGET IS BASED UPON TOTAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, AND A WHITTILING DOWN OF PRIORITIES THAT GOES INTO A PACKAGE. AND THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DEFEND WHEN I WAS ON THE MIKE EARLIER WAS THE PROCESS. THE PROCESS OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS, OF AMENDING IT, OF BRINGING IT TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE. AND THAT'S WHERE WE ARE WITH THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT HAPPENED POTENTIALLY WITH LB89 AND OTHER BILLS OR NOT COMING OUT OF COMMITTEE AND THIS IS THAT OUR THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT CAME TOGETHER ON THESE ISSUES. THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. SO REMOVING EMOTION, WHICH I WAS NOT CAPABLE OF DOING THE LAST TIME ON THE MIKE, FROM THIS TIME ON THE MIKE I HAVE TO DEFEND THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE. I MAY FIND EXCEPTION WITH OTHERS THAT ARE BROUGHT UP, BUT I HAVE TO DEFEND THAT THIS ISSUE IS...WE NEED TO KEEP THIS IN HERE BECAUSE IT WAS AN AGREEMENT SET ASIDE. THERE IS NO STATEMENT, I GUESS, THAT WE ARE MAKING BY REDUCING IT THIS MUCH. OUR LEGISLATIVE INTENT, HOWEVER, AND HOW WE APPROACH THIS NEEDS TO BE

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MADE. SO GET UP AND TALK ABOUT IT BECAUSE THE BUDGET IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT. AND THIS IS ONE ISSUE THAT PHILOSOPHICALLY WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER ON AND VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT BECAUSE SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID HE WILL TAKE FA55 TO A FINAL VOTE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. [LB659 LB89]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR MELLO. [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I'LL RESPECTFULLY STAND IN OPPOSITION TO FA55. AS SOME OF THE NEW MEMBERS MAY KNOW IN REGARDS TO CONVERSATIONS WE'VE HAD, I WILL STAND UP IN OPPOSITION TO ANY AMENDMENT THAT COMES TO THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION BASED ON THE WORK OVER THE LAST FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS OF THE COMMITTEE AND TRY TO DO MY BEST TO GIVE RATIONALE IN REGARDS TO WHY I OR ANYONE ELSE SHOULD CONSIDER OPPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO OUR UNDERLYING RECOMMENDATIONS. IT'S NOT THOUGH THAT I DISAGREE WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS' FRUSTRATION IN REGARDS TO WHAT WE HAD SEEN LAST NIGHT IN REGARDS TO THE VETO OF LB89. I, LIKE SENATOR KRIST, SENATOR CHAMBERS, AND OTHERS, ALSO WAS DISAPPOINTED IN REGARDS TO RECEIVING THAT LETTER AND SEEING THE VETO MESSAGE IN RESPECTS TO WHAT THE GOVERNOR WAS RELAYING TO OUR BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, I DON'T BELIEVE REDUCING THE GOVERNOR'S SALARY BY \$5 OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SALARY IN THE NEXT AMENDMENT BY \$5 IS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO DISPLAY MY FRUSTRATION AND DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE VETO OF LB89. I THINK THERE'S OTHER VENUES AND OTHER MECHANISMS AVAILABLE IN REGARDS TO OUR BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT TRYING TO REITERATE OUR POINT OF VIEW IN RESPECTS TO THE POLICY CHANGE THAT WE AND MANY OF US HAD SUPPORTED ON FINAL READING IN REGARDS TO WHAT LB89 IS TRYING TO DO IN REGARDS TO THE FOCUS OF ALLEVIATING POVERTY WITH THE HOPES OF ALSO STUDYING, WITH THE INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY TASK FORCE MOVING FORWARD, TO HELP US REFORM OUR POVERTY PROGRAMS INTO THE FUTURE. IT'S OUT OF RESPECT, THOUGH, THAT I OBVIOUSLY STAND IN OPPOSITION TO WHAT SENATOR CHAMBERS IS PROPOSING. ONCE AGAIN, WHILE IT IS ONLY A \$5 REDUCTION IN THE BUDGET, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO ADDRESS FRUSTRATION, DISAPPOINTMENT, OR EVEN ANGER WITH ANOTHER BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT. I BELIEVE THERE'S OTHER APPROPRIATE MEANS TO BE ABLE TO SATISFY OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AND/OR OUR DISAGREEMENTS IN REGARDS TO INTERBRANCH ISSUES. ONE OTHER COMPONENT I JUST WANTED TO SPEAK, AND

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I SHOULD HAVE SAID IT MAYBE ON LB658, I ALSO STAND WITH A LITTLE BIT OF...WITH DISAGREEMENT, BUT ALSO IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER IN REGARDS TO WHAT SENATOR GROENE HAD SAID IN REGARDS TO HIS INTERPRETATION TO OUR BUDGET RECOMMENDATION. AS I SAID TO OUR SENATORS' BRIEFING YESTERDAY, AND I KNOW THE FISCAL OFFICE ALSO ASSISTED, WE ARE ENTITLED TO OUR OWN OPINIONS IN REGARDS TO WHAT MAY BE LEGISLATIVE OR FISCAL PRIORITIES BUT WE'RE NOT ENTITLED TO OUR OWN SET OF FACTS. AND THE FACTS ARE LEGISLATIVE STATUTE DICTATES HOW GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE STATE'S BUDGETING PROCESS. THIS IS NOT SOME MAGICAL FORMULA THAT I'VE CONCOCTED OR THE FISCAL OFFICE HAS CONCOCTED OR THE APPROPRIATIONS HAS CONCOCTED. THIS HAS BEEN THE PROCESS THAT BOTH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH HAS USED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. AND, YES, WHEN THE LEGISLATURE AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CREATED THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROGRAM AND THE MECHANISM IN REGARDS TO TRANSFERRING FUNDS OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND INTO A CASH FUND, THAT IS A STATE POLICY AND THAT WAS A STATE DECISION THAT WAS MADE. SO, YES, SENATOR GROENE MAY DISLIKE THAT PROCESS. AND ARGUABLY HE CAN BRING A BILL NEXT YEAR TO CHANGE THAT PROCESS OR ANY YEAR HE'S IN THE LEGISLATURE TO TRY TO CHANGE, SO TO SPEAK, THE BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING PROCESS AS IT RELATES TO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AND/OR ANY OTHER GENERAL FUND TRANSFER MECHANISM THAT IS IN CURRENT STATUTE. BUT TO SIMPLY COME ON THE FLOOR AND SAY OUR BUDGET IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE, IT'S SIMPLY NOT ACCURATE, AND IT'S REALLY A MUCH, MUCH HIGHER NUMBER, COLLEAGUES, THIS HAS BEEN A PROCESS THAT'S BEEN USED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. AND THE REALITY IS IF THAT'S A PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVE THAT SENATOR GROENE HAS, HE'S GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO US, BRING A BILL TO CHANGE THAT, AND MOVE FORWARD. THAT, ON THE OTHER HAND, DOESN'T HAVE A DIRECT CONNECTION IN REGARDS TO WHAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED IN OUR... [LB659 LB89 LB658]

SENATOR COASH PRESIDING

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: ...BUDGET PACKAGE MOVING FORWARD. I THINK, ONCE AGAIN, THAT'S AN UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUE THAT IF SENATOR GROENE HAS THAT CONCERN, BRING A BILL TO CHANGE THAT NEXT YEAR. OTHERWISE, LET'S FOCUS IN REGARDS TO WHAT THE CURRENT STATUTE SAYS IS OUR ESSENTIALLY RULES OF THE GAME IN REGARDS TO WHAT OUR BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

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OPERATES UNDER AS WELL AS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OPERATES AS WELL. GOVERNOR RICKETTS' PROPOSAL USED THE SAME RULES WE DID IN REGARDS TO DEVELOPING THEIR BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS. AND IF THE REALITY IS IF YOU DON'T LIKE THOSE RULES, BRING A BILL TO CHANGE IT NEXT YEAR AND WE CAN HAVE A DEBATE ON THAT. OTHERWISE, THE FACTS ARE AS THEY'RE LAID OUT IN THE BUDGET BOOK WHICH IS OUR AVERAGE ANNUAL SPENDING GROWTH IS 3.1 PERCENT, AND, YES, THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROGRAM WHEN WE TRANSFER MONEY TO IT DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS GENERAL FUND SPENDING PER STATE STATUTE. WITH THAT, I URGE THE BODY TO OPPOSE FA55. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I'M GOING TO USE THIS TIME TO TEACH IN MY OWN WAY. AND IF IT SOUNDS LIKE I'M CONDESCENDING, YOU KNOW WHY I'M DOING THAT? BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY THE GOVERNOR TREATS YOU AND THAT'S THE WAY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TREATS YOU. THAT'S THE WAY THE COUNTY ATTORNEYS TREATS YOU. THEY TREAT YOU AS THOUGH YOU'RE CHILDREN. HERE WE ARE. YOU KNOW WHAT PYROTECHNICS ARE, DON'T YOU? YOU KNOW WHAT AN ARSONIST IS, DON'T YOU? WELL, THE FIRST THING YOU UNDERSTAND IS YOU DON'T LET CHILDREN PLAY WITH MATCHES. THE GOVERNOR CONSIDERS THE POWER THAT WE HAVE AS A LEGISLATURE AS MATCHES AND HE CONSIDERS YOU ALL CHILDREN. SO HE'S NOT GOING TO LET YOU PLAY WITH THOSE MATCHES BECAUSE YOU'LL SET A FIRE WHERE YOU SHOULDN'T. BUT IF YOU SET A FIRE ONLY WHERE HE TELLS YOU TO SET IT, THEN THAT'S ALL RIGHT BECAUSE YOU'RE CARRYING OUT HIS ORDER BECAUSE HE TELLS THIS ONE, GO AND HE GOES; TELLS THAT ONE COME AND SHE COMES. HERE'S WHAT WAS GOING ON BEFORE TERM LIMITS. YOU NEVER HAD THE KIND OF TURNOVER AT ONE TIME AS YOU HAVE UNDER TERM LIMITS. THERE WAS AN INFUSION OF FEW PEOPLE WITH EVERY ELECTION BUT YOU NEVER DESTROYED THE INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY OF THIS BODY. AND THE ONES WHO ARE HERE NOW DON'T HAVE SENSE ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THAT SO THEY STAND ON THIS FLOOR AND SAY, WELL, BEFORE TERM LIMITS THEY WERE ONLY SERVING AN AVERAGE OF FIVE YEARS, BUT NOT 18 PEOPLE WERE LEAVING AT ONE TIME. AND EVERY CYCLE YOU DILUTE THE BODY BY THAT MUCH. AND NOT EVERYBODY COMES HERE IS SHARP, IS NOT QUICK OF WIT, AND IS NOT HERE NECESSARILY TO DO THE JOB, AND SOME ARE EVEN APPOINTED TO COME HERE, WEREN'T EVEN THINKING ABOUT BEING IN POLITICS. AND THEN THEY COME HERE AND YOU LISTEN TO

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THEM. IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU ALL BECAUSE YOU DON'T CARE. BUT BECAUSE OF THE WAY I HAVE LIVED MY LIFE, I DON'T JOIN ORGANIZATIONS. I DON'T GO TO CHURCH. I DON'T GO TO NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS. I DON'T GO TO VIGILS. I DON'T GO TO PRAYER WALKS. IF I'M GOING TO HAVE A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE POLICE, WHICH I HAVE DONE, I GO DOWN TO THE POLICE STATION WEARING MY SANDWICH BOARD BY MYSELF. AND IF I'M UPSET WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE COURTHOUSE WITH THE JUDGES, I GO DOWN TO THE COURTHOUSE WITH MY SIGN BY MYSELF BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT I BELIEVE, I KNOW WHAT I'M THERE FOR, AND I KNOW WHAT CONSEQUENCES I'M PREPARED TO BEAR. I DON'T TRY TO GET A LOT OF COMPANY TO GO ALONG WITH ME ON ANYTHING, BECAUSE IT'S A DIFFICULT SITUATION THE MORE PEOPLE YOU GATHER FOR THAT PURPOSE, THE MORE REASONS YOU'RE GIVEN WHY YOU SHOULD NOT DO ANYTHING. COMMITTEES ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MITIGATING WHATEVER STRENGTH THERE MIGHT BE IN A CERTAIN POSITION. IT CALMS YOU DOWN, IT COOLS YOU OFF, AND IT'S AN ENTITY THAT CAN BE INFILTRATED BY THE ENEMY YOU'RE FIGHTING, AND THEY CAN TAKE OVER AND UNDERMINE EVERYTHING YOU'RE TRYING TO DO. I'VE BEEN IN THIS WORLD A LONG TIME. I'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH MORE THINGS THAN YOU WOULD BELIEVE AND THAT I'LL NEVER TELL YOU ABOUT. SO I KNOW ABOUT INFILTRATION BY TRAITORS, BY FBI AGENTS, BY POLICE INFORMANTS. AND YOU ALL DON'T DEAL WITH THAT, SO BECAUSE YOU DON'T DEAL WITH IT, IT DOESN'T HAPPEN, AND IT DOESN'T EXIST. AND I'M TALKING TO THE WALLS BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. TRYING TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES THAT I BRING UP IS LIKE ME SPEAKING IN GREEK TO PEOPLE WHO ONLY SPEAK FRENCH. I'M JUST MAKING SOUNDS. THEY HAVE NO RATIONALITY. THEY DO NOT STRIKE A RESPONSIVE CHORD IN YOU ALL BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T LIVED WHAT I HAVE LIVED. BUT ANYTIME I HAVE UNDERTAKEN... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...TO COOPERATE WITH ANY EFFORT, I GIVE IT THE BEST THAT I HAVE. BECAUSE BEFORE I WILL ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH IT, I FIRST HAVE TO BELIEVE IN WHAT IT'S DOING. AND ONCE I GET INVOLVED, I'LL LET EVERYBODY KNOW. WHEN YOU GET TIRED, DON'T EXPECT ME TO QUIT, BECAUSE I'VE BEEN PUT ON THE TRAIL OF SOMETHING THAT I THINK I OUGHT TO FOLLOW ALL THE WAY TO THE END. AND WHEN ALL OF YOU FALL AWAY, I'M GOING TO BE STILL BE PLUGGING AWAY. SOMEBODY ASKED ABRAHAM LINCOLN DURING THE WAR, MR. LINCOLN, DO YOU THINK THIS WAR WILL BE BROUGHT TO AN END BY YOU BEFORE YOUR ADMINISTRATION IS OVER? LINCOLN SAID, I DON'T KNOW, I CAN'T SAY. SO THE MAN SAID, WELL, WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO? HE SAID, I

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INTEND TO PEG AND PEG AND KEEP PEGGING AWAY. AND THAT'S THE WAY I OPERATE. AND I'M GOING TO OPERATE HERE, TOO, BECAUSE I VOLUNTARILY JOINED THIS ORGANIZATION AND I'M GOING TO GIVE IT THE BEST THAT I HAVE IF NOBODY ELSE WHO IS A PART OF IT CARES A WHIT FOR IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR GROENE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'D LIKE TO REMIND THIS BODY THAT WHEN I STARTED MY PRESENTATION EARLIER MY FIRST TIME UP, I CLARIFIED THAT I THINK THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOLLOWED ALL OF THE RULES; THERE WAS NO CONSPIRACY TO HIDE FUND SPENDING; THEY FOLLOW LAWS, FOLLOWED RULES. AND I HAVE SAID OVER AND OVER AGAIN, I'M A STICKLER FOR THE RULE OF LAW. IF I DON'T LIKE THE RULES, CHANGE THEM. AND I AGREE WITH SENATOR MELLO. MAYBE WE CAN WORK ON SOMETHING TO MAKE SURE THIS GOES BACK INTO THE BUDGET, SOME OF THESE NUMBERS, SO THE TAXPAYERS WHO, BY THE WAY, WHOSE MONEY WE'RE SPENDING. WE'RE DOING NOTHING HERE. AT THE END OF THE DAY, IF YOU HAVE A SPENDING BILL, DON'T PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK. YOU DIDN'T PAY FOR IT. WORKING PEOPLE CARRYING A LUNCH BUCKET, UNION MEMBERS, ARE PAYING. THAT'S WHERE THAT MONEY COMES FROM THAT YOU SPENT. WASN'T YOURS. SO DON'T PUT IT ON YOUR RESUME YOU DID SOMETHING GREAT BECAUSE EVERY TAXPAYER HAS IT ON THEIR RESUME. THEY'RE THE ONES THAT PAID FOR IT, NOT US. I'VE GOT A QUESTION IF SENATOR MELLO WILL YIELD. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: SENATOR MELLO, IN THE CASH RESERVE FUND, THE TRANSFERS, THE \$55.7 MILLION, WHERE DID THAT MONEY GENERATE FROM? [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT MONEY GENERATES FROM THE FOUR MAIN REVENUE SOURCES THAT COMES FROM ESSENTIALLY THE STATE, THROUGH THE GENERAL FUND: INCOME TAXES, SALES TAXES, CORPORATE TAXES, AS WELL AS MISCELLANEOUS SPECIAL TAXES. [LB659]

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SENATOR GROENE: SO TO SUM THAT UP YOU COULD SAY TAXPAYERS, RIGHT?
[LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: TAXPAYERS, INDIVIDUALS, PARTNERSHIPS, CORPORATIONS,
ABSOLUTELY. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: CORPORATIONS DON'T PAY TAXES; HUMANS PAY TAXES. BUT
ANYWAY, ANOTHER QUESTION. THE \$5.5 MILLION IN THE REPUBLICAN RIVER
COMPACT, THE \$17.2 MILLION GENERAL FUND TO COVER THE PENALTIES WE
HAD WITH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE OTHER MONEY, WHERE
DOES THAT MONEY COME FROM? WHEN THE STATE WRITES THAT CHECK, DOES
THE STATE WRITE THAT CHECK TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS? [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: TO...FOR AN EXAMPLE, THE REPUBLICAN RIVER WATER
SETTLEMENT WITH THE STATE OF KANSAS? IS THAT...KIND OF THAT EXAMPLE?
[LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: THAT FOR AN EXAMPLE. [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT CHECK WOULD, ARGUABLY, GET CUT BY THE DAS
BUDGET OFFICE. THE AUTHORITY IS WRESTED IN THE DAS BUDGET OFFICE,
THEN GOES TO DAS ACCOUNTING, CHECKS ULTIMATELY PRODUCED BY THE
STATE, SIGNED BY THE DAS DIRECTOR AND STATE TREASURER. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: WELL, THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. I APPRECIATE YOUR
ANSWER BECAUSE, SINCE YOU'RE THE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIRMAN, YOU
UNDERSTAND THE INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS OF THE BUDGET. THERE IS NO
MAGICAL POT OF GOLD THAT JUST APPEARED THAT WE ARE SPENDING BECAUSE
WE DON'T NEED TO SHOW IT IN THE BUDGET. IT'S GENERATED FROM THE
TAXPAYERS. THE MONEY IS WRITTEN BY...CHECK WRITTEN BY THE STATE IS
TAXPAYER DOLLARS. THAT'S SIMPLE ACCOUNTING. ALL I'M TRYING TO DO AND
WILL CONTINUE TO DO IS TO MAKE SURE THE CITIZENS KNOW HOW MUCH
MONEY IS ACTUALLY SPENT. NOW I DIDN'T COME HERE TO JOIN A COUNTRY
CLUB AND SAY, ALL RIGHT, NOW THAT YOU'RE A MEMBER, GOT TO FOLLOW THIS
RULE AND CAN'T DRIVE YOUR GOLF CART ON THE GREENS, LIKE IN A COUNTRY
CLUB. I REPRESENT TAXPAYERS. SO COLLEGIALLY STOPS WHEN I HAVE TO TELL
THE TRUTH TO MY TAXPAYERS IN LINCOLN COUNTY, HOW MUCH MONEY IS
SPENT, WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM, AND THE REALITY OF THE BUDGET: 6.1
PERCENT WILL BE WRITTEN IN CHECKS BY THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, INCREASE

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IN SPENDING THE FIRST YEAR; 4.1 (PERCENT) WILL BE SPENT THE SECOND YEAR WITH CHECKS WRITTEN FROM AN ACCOUNT, DEPOSITED IN IT BY THE TAXPAYERS. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: THAT IS MY POINT. I THINK THAT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE GROUP DID A WONDERFUL JOB. WITH ACCURACY, WITH LISTENING TO THE TAXPAYERS, LISTENING TO...NO, I SHOULDN'T SAY THE TAXPAYER. THERE'S NO TAXPAYER THAT COMES TO THEIR HEARING. EVERYBODY WHO'S IN FRONT OF THEM IS THE ONE WHO GETS THE CHECK FROM THE TAXPAYERS' ACCOUNT, EVERY ONE OF THEM. IT'S THE ONE WHO RECEIVES THE CHECK FROM THE TAXPAYERS' SAVINGS ACCOUNT. AND I WOULD WISH THAT EVERY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WOULD SAY I REPRESENT THE GUYS WHO PUT THE MONEY IN THE CHECKING ACCOUNT. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR. THEY DON'T HAVE A VOICE. AND MY VOICE IS TOO LOUD SOMETIMES, BUT I'M GOING TO CONTINUE TO TALK THAT WAY BECAUSE I'M TALKING FOR THAT TAXPAYER, NOT FOR THE SIX-FIGURE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, NOT THE SIX-FIGURE 3,000 OR 4,000 EMPLOYEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA WHO THE CHECKS ARE WRITTEN TO, OR I CAN GO DOWN THE LIST. I'M HERE FOR THE TAXPAYER. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. (VISITORS RECOGNIZED.)
SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, I'M GOING TO KEEP TALKING ABOUT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT BECAUSE IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION HOW MUCH ATTENTION PEOPLE DO PAY. THEY EVEN PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I SAY, IN FACT, ESPECIALLY TO WHAT I SAY. AND ONE OF THE QUESTIONS I'M ASKED IS, WHY DO YOU EVEN STAY DOWN THERE? HOW HAVE YOU STAYED DOWN THERE ALL THOSE YEARS? BECAUSE THEY HEAR THE REST OF YOU TALK ALSO, TALK, TALK, BUT DON'T SAY ANYTHING. AFRAID TO TAKE A STRONG POSITION. I COULD STAND UP HERE AND TALK JUST ABOUT ALL OF THE POOR PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. AND THEN WHEN PROGRAMS THAT COME THAT WILL HELP THOSE POOR PEOPLE WHO NEED MEDICAL CARE, ALL OF A SUDDEN I GET

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QUIET. I CAN STAND UP HERE AND TALK ABOUT NOT TAKING MONEY FROM THE TAXPAYERS, THEN I CAN GET MULTI-THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN FARM SUBSIDIES FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. AND THEN THINGS THAT EVEN SENATOR GROENE WILL BE IN FAVOR OF, IT WILL BE PAID FOR EITHER BY MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR THE STATE GOVERNMENT OR THE CITY GOVERNMENT. AND IF HE UNDERSTANDS AS MUCH AS I THINK HE UNDERSTANDS OR SHOULD UNDERSTAND, GOVERNMENTS CAN RAISE REVENUE ONLY THROUGH TAXATION. IF YOU HAVE A GOVERNMENT, YOU HAVE TO HAVE TAXATION. YOU HAVE TO HAVE A WAY TO GET SOME REVENUE. AND IF YOU CANNOT RAISE ENOUGH REVENUE TO PAY FOR WHAT YOU NEED BECAUSE YOU HAVE COERCIVE POWER AND YOU CAN ENFORCE YOUR WILL THROUGH COERCION, AND IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE COERCIVE POWER TO MAKE YOUR WILL PARAMOUNT, YOU ARE NOT A STATE. THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF A STATE IS COERCIVE POWER WHERE YOU CAN COMPEL THOSE TO DO WHAT YOU ORDER THEM TO DO. SO THE ONLY WAY A STATE CAN FUNCTION IS TO GET THAT MONEY. AND IT'S GOING TO GET THAT MONEY. WE ARE STEWARDS, AND WE ARE TO SPEND IT WISELY. WE ARE TO DO THOSE THINGS THAT BENEFIT THE PEOPLE. AND WE DON'T DO THAT BY ROLLING OVER WHEN THE GOVERNOR OR THE POLITICAL PARTY WE BELONG TO WILL TELL US DO THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THE PARTY, DO THIS TO SHORE UP THE GOVERNOR. THAT'S HOW I JUDGE WHAT PEOPLE DO HERE. THEY CAN YAK AND YAMMER ALL THEY WANT TO. BUT I WATCH, I LISTEN, AND I SEE WHEN TIME COMES TO ACT WHAT THEY WILL NOT DO, WHEN THEY WILL NOT STAND. YOU WILL STAND FOR WOODMEN OF THE WORLD. BUT THOSE 54,000 NEBRASKANS WHO NEED MEDICAL CARE, THEY CANNOT GET IT. THEN THE POOR WHOM YOUR JESUS TOLD YOU TO TAKE CARE...SENATOR HILKEMANN WAS OFFENDED AND HE SAID SO BECAUSE I DEFAME HIS FAITH. WELL, THE FAITH THAT HE BELIEVES IN IS PRESIDED OVER BY A JESUS WHO TOLD YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THE WIDOWS AND THE ORPHANS. YOU FEED THE HUNGRY. SENATOR HILKEMANN, WHEN HE WAS PRACTICING HIS TRADE, HIS PROFESSION, HE WAS A HEALER. YOU HAVE THE ABILITY AND THE KNOW-HOW, YOUR JOB IS TO HEAL, NOT TO TALK ABOUT IT. AND WE HAVE POOR PEOPLE AMONG US, OUR BROTHERS, OUR SISTERS, OUR NEIGHBORS. SENATOR GROENE DOESN'T PAY ENOUGH IN TAXES TO PAY ANY BENEFIT THAT ANYBODY GETS, AND I GET TIRED OF HIM TALKING ABOUT ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE WANT TO TAKE. AND THE TAXPAYERS, THEY'RE THE ONES WHO GIVE AND EVERYONE WANTS TO SPEND EVERYBODY ELSE'S MONEY. SO DOES HE BECAUSE HE TAKES MONEY IN A SALARY FROM THOSE PEOPLE WHO PAY HIM \$12,000 A YEAR. AND THANKS TO ME, AND I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU AN ARTICLE WHERE HE APPROVED OF WHAT I GOT DONE WITHOUT MENTIONING ME BY NAME BECAUSE HE WASN'T A SENATOR THEN AND HE TALKED ABOUT HOW GREAT IT WAS THAT

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SENATORS CAN GET THEIR EXPENSES AND THEY SHOULD GET THEIR EXPENSES BECAUSE THE SALARY IS NOT ENOUGH. THESE PEOPLE HERE DON'T KNOW WHAT I COLLECT AND WHAT I KEEP, SO I'M GOING TO MAKE A COPY OF THAT ARTICLE... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...AND SHOW YOU WHAT SENATOR GROENE SAID ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO GET THOSE EXPENSES, THE EXPENSES HE GETS. HE DOES GET A GOVERNMENT CHECK AND HE GETS A SALARY ALSO. AND TO MY KNOWLEDGE, HE HAS NOT TAKEN THE HIGH ROAD AND MANIFESTED NOBILITY AND RECTITUDE OF CHARACTER BY SAYING I WILL NOT ACCEPT WHAT YOU CALL A SALARY BECAUSE IT'S COMING FROM THE TAXPAYERS AND I WILL NOT ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT CHECK. BUT HE ACCEPTS IT; I ACCEPT IT. BUT, SEE, I WAS ABLE TO LIVE ON SMALL AMOUNTS. COMPARED TO THE WAY I LIVE, A SPARTAN LIVES A LUXURIOUS, SPENDTHRIFT LIFE. BUT I LOOKED AT ALL THESE PEOPLE COMING FROM THE RURAL AREAS WHO HAD TO SPEND FAR MORE TO BE HERE THAN I DID AND NOBODY COULD FIND A WAY TO HELP THEM. SO I HELPED SUBSIDIZE THOSE WHO WOULD BECOME MY ENEMIES. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND THAT WAS MY THIRD TIME, WASN'T IT? [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR MELLO, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND I ONCE AGAIN STAND IN OPPOSITION TO FA55. BUT I JUST... YOU'LL HEAR ME DO THIS THROUGHOUT THE DEBATE WHEN SOMEONE SAYS A COMMENT OR MAKES A COMMENT, AND MY HOPE IS TO TRY TO BRING US BACK A LITTLE BIT MAYBE TO WHAT WE ARE DISCUSSING AND TO SOME EXTENT OUR ROLES AS POLICYMAKERS IN REGARDS TO A SPECIAL, UNIQUE ROLE WE HAVE IN REGARDS TO THE PUBLIC SQUARE AND THE PUBLIC DIALOGUE. ONE, I DON'T DISAGREE IF SENATOR GROENE OR SENATOR CHAMBERS OR ANYONE BECOMES PASSIONATE ABOUT AN ISSUE. WE'RE ALLOWED TO DISPLAY THAT PASSION ON THE FLOOR IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. BUT YOU CAN STILL BE CIVIL WITH EACH OTHER EVEN WHEN YOU DISAGREE OR YOU'RE BECOMING PASSIONATE ABOUT AN ISSUE. CIVILITY DOESN'T NEED TO BE THROWN OUT THE WINDOW BECAUSE AN

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INDIVIDUAL DISAGREES. (LAUGH) SENATOR CHAMBERS KNOWS. IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE THROWN OUT THE WINDOW BECAUSE THERE'S A GENERAL DISAGREEMENT, I THINK THAT. THE ESSENCE OF WHAT SENATOR GROENE'S REMARK WAS, WE DON'T...WE THROW OUT CONGENIALITY, SO TO SPEAK, WHEN WE WANT TO BE PASSIONATE ON AN ISSUE. WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT, COLLEAGUES. WE CAN HAVE A DISAGREEMENT AND STILL, ONE, BE CIVIL WITH EACH OTHER, TRY TO DEBATE THE ISSUE AT HAND, AND WHEN THAT ISSUE IS DONE MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ISSUE. BUT THE THING THAT MAYBE CONCERNED ME A LITTLE BIT MAYBE MORE OF WHAT I HEARD WAS SOMEHOW ALONG THE LINES THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WAS NOT LOOKING OUT FOR THE TAXPAYERS IN REGARDS TO SOMEHOW AS WE DEVELOPED A BIENNIAL BUDGET. OR TO SOME EXTENT THAT BECAUSE YOU ARE A PUBLIC TEACHER OR YOU'RE A DEPARTMENT OF ROADS WORKER OR YOU SOMEHOW RECEIVE ANY FUNDING FROM A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTRACT FROM THE STATE, THAT YOU'RE NOT A TAXPAYER. COLLEAGUES, PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE THEIR SALARY FROM A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A CONTRACT FROM A GOVERNMENT, OR WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT ARE ALSO TAXPAYERS. AND I DON'T...IN ANY CONVERSATION I'VE HAD WITH ANY STATE EMPLOYEE IN THE SEVEN YEARS I'VE BEEN HERE, I'VE NEVER HEARD A STATE EMPLOYEE COME TO ME AND SAY, JUST SPEND MONEY WILLY-NILLY, JUST SPEND IT ANY WAY YOU WANT BECAUSE, YOU KNOW WHAT, I'M NOT A TAXPAYER. BECAUSE THAT'S NOT THE CASE. EVERYONE PAYS TAXES. YOU MAY PAY SALES TAXES. YOU MAY NOT PAY INCOME TAXES. YOU MAY PAY PROPERTY TAXES AND SALES TAXES AND YOU MAY NOT PAY INCOME TAXES. BUT THE REALITY IS, EVEN IF YOU'RE RECEIVING A SALARY FROM A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR A CONTRACT FROM A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, YOU'RE A TAXPAYER. AND THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KIND OF REITERATE, SO TO SPEAK, IN REGARDS TO, YES, WE'RE ALL LOOKING OUT FOR TAXPAYERS. AND, YES, I WOULD ARGUE THE SIX-FIGURE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, YES, IS ALSO A TAXPAYER. THEY'RE PAYING TAXES AT THE END OF THE DAY, INCOME AND SALES TAXES LIKELY. SO LET'S BE CAREFUL WHEN WE TRY TO DEMAGOGUE DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS, DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS BASED ON, ONE, IF THEY WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT OR THEY DON'T WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT. WE CAN HAVE A POLICY DEBATE IN REGARDS TO WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY TO A SPECIFIC PROGRAM, A SPECIFIC AGENCY WITHOUT TRYING TO DEMAGOGUE OURSELVES OR OUR COLLEAGUES SAYING THAT WE'RE NOT LOOKING OUT FOR TAXPAYERS BECAUSE WE'RE, QUOTE UNQUOTE, LOOKING OUT FOR UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS OR HIGHLY-PAID STATE EMPLOYEES WHICH, COLLEAGUES, AT THE END OF THE DAY ARE ALSO TAXPAYERS. SO JUST BE CAREFUL IN REGARDS TO WHEN WE HAVE DIALOGUES AND CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THAT. I KNOW SENATOR GROENE WASN'T TRYING TO BE VINDICTIVE

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ABOUT THAT. I KNOW THAT. I TALK WITH SENATOR GROENE ON A REGULAR BASIS. BUT WE JUST NEED TO BE CAREFUL WHEN WE MAKE REMARKS LIKE THAT BECAUSE WE'RE GIVING THE IMPRESSION TO THE PUBLIC THAT THERE IS TAXPAYERS AND THERE IS EVERYONE ELSE. AND AS FAR AS I KNOW, ALL 49 OF US ARE TAXPAYERS IN THIS BODY, AS WELL AS PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE A STATE PAYCHECK, A COUNTY PAYCHECK, OR A TEACHER OR A JANITOR AT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT ARE RECEIVING A PAYCHECK FROM YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT. I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO DEMAGOGUE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO MAKE AN ARGUMENT OF WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY. AND THAT'S MY UNDERLYING POINT THAT I JUST HOPE WE TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION AS WE MOVE ALONG THIS DEBATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP STANDING UP AND DO SOME CLARIFICATION I GUESS. SENATOR MELLO HAS A WAY OF INTERPRETING THINGS THAT I SAID AND SO DID SENATOR CHAMBERS. I DID NOT EVER SAY, AND I'LL GET THE TRANSCRIPTS, THAT WE DON'T NEED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, THAT THEY DO NOT EARN THE PAY WE GIVE THEM. I NEVER SAID THAT. I NEVER WILL SAY THAT. WE NEED GOVERNMENT. WE NEED PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I AM JUST SAYING THE TAXPAYERS SHOULD DECIDE HOW MUCH WE SPEND, NOT THE EMPLOYEE. THAT IS WHAT I AM SAYING. THE TAXPAYERS DECIDE WHAT WE GET PAID, THE \$12,000. AND I THINK WE ALL EARN IT. MY POINT IS, DO WE EARN \$200,000? NO. THERE IS LEVELS WHERE WE NEED TO LOOK AT IT AS TAXPAYERS AND SAY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. WE NEED TO CONTROL THE SPENDING. I DON'T BLAME ANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE ASKING FOR A RAISE. BUT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR BECOMES THE NEW MIDDLE CLASS, WE GOT A PROBLEM IN AMERICA. WE NEED PEOPLE WORKING IN THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. WE NEED THEM TO BE ABLE TO KEEP THEIR MONEY SO THEY CAN GROW THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM BECAUSE YOU CAN CLAIM ALL YOU WANT BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT GENERATES, AND THAT'S WHAT KEEPS THIS COUNTRY NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD. SO, PLEASE, DON'T MISINTERPRET WHAT I SAY. AND I WILL REPEAT, I HAVE NEVER TAKEN A GOVERNMENT CHECK FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL IN MY LIFE. AND I'VE BEEN IN AGRICULTURE ALL MY LIFE. AND I DON'T BLAME THE GUYS THAT DID BECAUSE IF IT'S THERE, TAKE IT. IF YOU'RE A BUSINESSMAN AND THE OPPORTUNITY IS THERE, THAT'S A BUSINESS DECISION. AND THAT'S THE SAME WITH STATE SPENDING. OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT TO REWARD PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY

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COME TO US AND WANT MORE. OUR HARD DECISIONS ARE TO SAY, IS THIS RIGHT FOR THE TAXPAYER? IS THIS RIGHT FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT? BUT, PLEASE, DO NOT MISINTERPRET WHAT MY WORDS ARE AND TRY TO CREATE THAT I'M AN ENEMY OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. I HAVE NEVER SAID THAT, EXCUSE ME, PUBLIC SERVANTS. BUT WHAT YOU GET PAID SOMETIMES, I GOT A RIGHT TO QUESTION THAT, EVERY TAXPAYER DOES AT THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD, AT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING, AT THE NRD MEETING. AND THEY ARE THE ONES THAT WE SHOULD BE LISTENING TO WHEN WE SAY...THEY SAY WE THINK THIS EMPLOYEE OF OURS, PUBLIC SERVANT, NEEDS A RAISE. WE DON'T LISTEN TO THE PUBLIC SERVANT WHEN HE SAYS HE NEEDS MORE MONEY. THAT IS MY POINT. MAYBE IT'S OLD-FASHIONED. BUT THAT IS THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE HERE. WOULDN'T YOU? IMAGINE IF WE HAD A COMMITTEE THAT SET OUR WAGES. IMAGINE IF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SET THEIR OWN WAGES. I WONDER WHAT THIS BODY WOULD BE PAID. YOU GO AROUND THE NATION AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY GET PAID. BUT THAT'S ONE WAGE THAT THE TAXPAYERS DO CONTROL. APPARENTLY THEY THINK WE'RE WORTH \$12,000 BECAUSE MAYBE THEY DON'T THINK WE'RE LISTENING TO THEM. SO THEY DON'T THINK WE NEED A PAY RAISE. DUH! SO, ANYWAY, LET'S QUIT THROWING MONEY AROUND. LET'S STOP FEELING GOOD ABOUT OURSELVES, THAT WE SAVED THE WORLD, THAT WE SAVED THIS CHILD OR THAT ONE, OR BECAUSE WE FOUND A NEW INVENTION THAT WE'RE GOING TO CREATE WITHIN OUR SYSTEMS,... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: ...A NEW DEPARTMENT. WE'VE SURVIVED AS MANKIND FOR 6,000 YEARS AS CIVILIZATIONS, 6,000 OR 7,000, WITHOUT IT. WE'VE SURVIVED AS A STATE WITHOUT...FOR 200 YEARS WITHOUT SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS. BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN WE NEED THEM. I HAVE TO QUESTION THAT, I HAVE TO QUESTION THAT, THE TAXPAYER QUESTIONS THAT. SO ANYWAY, LET'S KEEP THIS LEVEL...DEBATE ON A LEVEL AND DON'T READ INTO MY WORDS BECAUSE I WILL GET THE TRANSCRIPTS AND MEET WITH THE SENATORS AND WE'LL GO OVER THOSE TRANSCRIPTS AND WE'LL SEE WHAT I REALLY SAID. PLAYING ONE AGAINST THE OTHER, GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AGAINST TAXPAYERS. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES DO PAY TAXES. AND I KNOW SOME IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT THAT DO NOT GET PAID ENOUGH. I KNOW SOME IN THE LOWER END OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM DON'T GET PAID ENOUGH FOR THE RETURN WE GET FOR THEIR WORK. BUT IT SEEMS IN ADMINISTRATION ACROSS THE BOARD IN GOVERNMENT, THERE SEEMS TO BE A DISPARITY. AND THAT WAS MY POINT. [LB659]

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SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB659]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON FA55. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I SAID I WAS GOING TO TAKE THIS TO A VOTE, BUT I WON'T. I COULD HAVE HAD MY SAY BY OFFERING MOTIONS ON THIS BILL, BRACKET IT AND WHATEVER, BUT I DECIDED TO STAY WITHIN THE RULES AND OFFER AN AMENDMENT. AND I'M USING A SCALPEL RATHER THAN A SLEDGEHAMMER. BUT WHEN I SPEAK IT MIGHT SOUND LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER. BUT I'M NOT ATTACKING THE WHOLE BUDGET BILL. I'M NOT ATTACKING THE BUDGETING PROCESS. I'M GOING AFTER THE TWO INDIVIDUALS WHOM I THINK SHOULD HAVE SOMEBODY GO AFTER THEM AND PEOPLE ON THIS FLOOR WILL NOT DO SO, ALTHOUGH I GET PLENTY OF COMPLAINTS FROM PEOPLE ON THIS FLOOR ABOUT THE GOVERNOR AND ESPECIALLY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. AND YOU KNOW WHY THEY CAN'T CRITICIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL? BECAUSE THEY MIGHT HAVE TO GO TO HIM AND ASK HIM FOR SOMETHING. NOT ME. I'M GOING TO BACK AWAY FROM SOME MAN? I'M A GROWN MAN. I HAVE CHILDREN, I HAVE GRANDCHILDREN. I'M GOING TO LET SOME MAN TREAT ME LIKE I'M HIS CHILD OR HIS VASSAL OR HIS SLAVE? NOT THIS MAN, BROTHERS AND SISTERS. I'M GOING TO SAY LIKE A SONG ONCE SAID: I'M THE MAN YOU THINK YOU ARE OR THAT YOU WISH YOU WERE. YOU CANNOT POUR THE GOVERNOR ON ME. YOU CANNOT POUR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON ME. WHY SHOULD THEY COME AFTER A MOUNTAIN LION WHEN THEY CAN DEAL WITH A CHIPMUNK? ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS STAMP THEIR FEET AND ALL THE LITTLE CHIPMUNK...I APOLOGIZE TO THE CHIPMUNKS. I SHOULDN'T SAY THAT. I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO DEMEAN THE CRICKETS OR ANY OTHER LIVING CREATURE. THEY ARE WHAT THEY ARE BY NATURE. THEY CANNOT CHANGE THEIR NATURE. HUMAN BEINGS ARE CALLED HOMO SAPIENS, THE WISE ONES. AND WE HAVE SOME...SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WE HAVE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE SO HOMOPHOBIC, THEY DON'T EVEN THINK WE OUGHT TO REFER TO HUMAN BEINGS AS HOMO SAPIENS BUT "HETERO SAPIENS." THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW THE TERM "HETERO" APPLIES. BUT NO MORE ARE THEY HETERO...HOMO SAPIENS, "HETERO SAPIENS." WHY, ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES PROBABLY WENT UP TO THE SCHOOL HOTTER THAN A FIRECRACKER AND THE TEACHER SAID, WHAT'S THE MATTER, MR. SO-AND-SO? MY SON CAME HOME AND TOLD ME YOU SAID HE'S A HOMO SAPIENS. DID YOU SAY MY SON IS A HOMO SAPIENS? THE TEACHER SAID, YES, AND WITH ALL DUE

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RESPECT, SO ARE YOU. AND HE PULLS OUT HIS GUN AND SHOOTS THE TEACHER BECAUSE THEY ALL ARE ARMED, ALL OF THEM CARRYING GUNS, ALL OF THEM. AND AS THE TEACHER IS DYING, YOU KNOW WHAT THE TEACHER SAYS? I'M NOT ISIS. I'M NOT ISIL. I'M NOT THE TALIBAN. I'M A FELLOW CITIZEN. I HEARD YOU'RE CARRYING YOUR GUNS BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF ISIS. I'M AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND YOU SHOOT ME BECAUSE I APPLY A SCIENTIFIC TERM TO YOU. OH, THAT WAS A SCIENTIFIC TERM? I THOUGHT YOU WERE CALLING ME A NAME. WELL, SIR, THAT'S WHY BEFORE YOU SHOT ME, I WAS GIVING SO MUCH TIME TO TRYING TO TEACH YOUR SON SOMETHING SO THAT HE WOULD UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT LIFE IN THE WORLD THAN YOU DO. AND HIS FIRST APPEAL WOULD NOT BE TO THE GUN. BECAUSE MANY TIMES WHEN AN APPEAL IS MADE TO THE GUN, THE PERSON WHO IS APPEALING TO THE GUN DOES NOT EVEN UNDERSTAND THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DOESN'T REALIZE THAT THE GUN NEED NOT BE PUT IN PLAY. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND ONE OTHER THING I'LL TELL YOU, SIR, BEFORE I DIE AND GO TO MY MAKER. IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT GUN, WE COULD HAVE HAD THIS CONVERSATION. I WOULD NOT BE TAKEN FROM MY FAMILY AND YOU WOULD NOT BE SITTING IN A JAIL CELL. BUT THE GUN TALKED TO YOU, AND THE GUN RULED YOU, AND NOW IT HAS RUINED BOTH OF OUR FAMILIES. AND THAT'S BECAUSE PROPER EDUCATION IS NOT GIVEN, AND WHEN GIVEN IT'S NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE HOLD. WE HAVE AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS LEGISLATURE AND WE ARE NOT ASSUMING IT AND WE'RE NOT DISCHARGING IT. BUT I'M GOING TO DISCHARGE MY DUTY THE WAY THAT I THINK I SHOULD. AND, MR. PRESIDENT, IN THE INTERESTS OF COLLEGIALLY, I WILL WITHDRAW THAT PENDING AMENDMENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: FA55 IS WITHDRAWN. MR. CLERK. [LB659]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE NEXT AMENDMENT FROM SENATOR CHAMBERS, FA56. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1338.) [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON FA56. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THIS AMENDMENT GOES TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. AND

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FRANKLY, THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT HIM, I SHOULD REDUCE HIS SALARY TO SUCH A POINT THAT THE ONLY AMOUNT IS LEFT IS \$5, SO IN CASE HE NEEDS BUS FARE GO HOME HE CAN RIDE THE BUS INSTEAD OF WALKING. BUT I HAVE NO RESPECT FOR HIM AS A LAWYER OR AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, ONE WHO'S TAKEN AN OATH. HE HAS DEALT WITH PEOPLE IN A VERY UNDERHANDED, DISHONEST WAY. HE HAS CUT SOME PEOPLE OFF AT THE KNEES. TALK TO SENATOR GARRETT. THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND HERE WHO HAVE TALKED TO HIM, BUT NOBODY IS GOING TO SAY ANYTHING EXCEPT ME AND I'LL SAY IT, BECAUSE WHEN I KNOW IT, I HAVE TO TELL IT. I PUT IN A REQUEST TO HIM TO GIVE ME AN OPINION AS TO WHETHER THAT ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS MECA, METROPOLITAN ENTERTAINMENT AND CONVENTION AGENCY (SIC--AUTHORITY) IN OMAHA, IS A PUBLIC ENTITY AND, THEREFORE, SUBJECT TO THE LAWS THAT APPLY TO PUBLIC BODIES. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT I'M INTERESTED IN THAT OPINION BECAUSE I'M CONSIDERING LEGISLATION NEXT SESSION. AND HE, IN A WAY THAT I THINK WAS NOT INAPPROPRIATE, INDICATED THAT SINCE THAT WAS MY INTENT...IN SO MANY WORDS, THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE ON THE FRONT BURNER BECAUSE YOU'VE STATED WHAT YOUR NEED IS AND THERE'S TIME THAT CAN PASS, BUT IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU IN A TIMELY FASHION. AND I ACCEPTED THAT. BUT I TALKED TO A MAN THAT I'VE WORK WITH ON THESE ISSUES AND I TOLD HIM, FIRST--THAT'S WHY I'LL SAY IT ON THE MIKE--I'M GOING TO WRITE THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL A LETTER AND FORMALLY WITHDRAW THAT REQUEST AND TELL HIM I DO NOT WANT HIM TO GIVE ME AN OPINION BECAUSE I HAVE NO RESPECT FOR HIM IN HIS PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY AND I DON'T RESPECT HIM AS AN ATTORNEY GENERAL. I DO NOT TRUST HIM. I DO NOT TRUST THE COUNTY ATTORNEYS. YOU KNOW WHAT SOME OF MY NAIVE COLLEAGUES HAVE DONE? THEY'VE HAD MEETINGS WITH THESE PEOPLE AND THEY COME AWAY FROM THESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SWORN A LAWYER'S OATH. AND IF THEY'RE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, THEY SWORE THE OATH OF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL. AND YOU'LL FIND THE TEXT OF THAT IN THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTION. BUT DESPITE ALL OF THOSE OATHS, THEY BETRAY. THAT'S WHY THE POLICE PUT IN THEIR SONG, "EVERY SMILE YOU FAKE, EVERY VOW YOU BREAK". THAT'S WHAT MY COLLEAGUES WERE DEALING WITH. AND THEY WERE MISHANDLED IN THE WAY THAT THE NATIVE PEOPLES OF THIS CONTINENT WERE MISHANDLED. THEY THOUGHT BECAUSE THEY KEPT THEIR WORD, THE ONES WITH WHOM THEY WERE DEALING WOULD KEEP THEIR WORD ALSO. BUT SOMETIMES YOU MAKE A MISTAKE WHEN YOU JUDGE PEOPLE BY WHAT YOU ARE. WHEN YOU DO THAT, YOU FAIL TO SEE THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE. WHAT DID THAT MAN WHO DIED A FEW DAYS AGO, PERCY SLEDGE, SAY IN THAT WAILING, HEARTBROKEN SONG THAT BECAME THE STANDARD FOR THAT KIND OF MUSIC? WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN, HE'LL GIVE UP ALL HIS COMFORT,

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SLEEP OUT IN THE RAIN IF THAT'S THE WAY SHE SAYS IT OUGHT TO BE. BUT WHAT I'M GETTING TO IS THE PART WHERE HE SAYS THE TRUSTING EYE, OR YOU CAN SAY THE LOVING EYE, DOES NEVER SEE, WILL NEVER SEE. SO MY COLLEAGUES WERE THE ONES WITH THOSE TRUSTING EYES, AND THEY FAILED TO SEE WHAT THEY WERE DEALING WITH. THEY DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THAT LITTLE THING THAT WE'RE TOLD ABOUT THE WOLF WHO'S WEARING SHEEP CLOTHING. AND THAT REMINDS ME OF A STORY ABOUT BETRAYAL. THERE WERE TWO CHILDREN BORN, AND THIS WAS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. ONE WAS JACOB AND ONE WAS ESAU. THEY WERE TWINS. AND WHEN ESAU CAME OUT, HE WAS COVERED ALL OVER WITH HAIR. THAT'S WHAT THE "BIBBLE" SAID. HE WAS COVERED WITH HAIR. MAYBE HE WAS A NEANDERTHAL. I DON'T KNOW. A LOT WAS GOING ON BACK THERE THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT. AND IF HE WAS A NEANDERTHAL, FROM WHAT WE'VE BEEN TOLD, THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE. BUT AT ANY RATE, THEY BOTH GREW UP. JACOB WAS THE SMOOTH, SLICK ONE. HE WAS SO SMOOTH, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, HE COULD SLIDE ACROSS THIS FLOOR AS THOUGH HE WERE ON GOOSE GREASE BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO MOVE HIS FEET IN THE WAY YOU AND I WALK. HE'D JUST KIND OF MOVE HIS HEELS TO ONE SIDE, THEN BRING HIS TOES TO THAT SIDE AND JUST SLIDES ACROSS THE FLOOR. ESAU WAS A MAN OF THE FIELD. HE HUNTED. THAT'S HOW HE GOT HIS FOOD. HE LIVED OUT THERE AMONG THE ANIMALS. HE LOOKED LIKE AN ANIMAL AND EVEN SMELLED LIKE ONE. WELL, TIME CAME FOR HIS BLIND OLD FATHER TO BESTOW A BLESSING. AND THE OLDEST SON, THE ELDEST AS THEY WOULD SAY, WOULD GET THE BLESSING, A BIRTHRIGHT. JACOB WAS THE FAVORITE OF HIS MOTHER. SO SHE SAID, WE'RE GOING TO TRICK YOUR FATHER INTO GIVING YOU THE BIRTHRIGHT THAT SHOULD GO TO YOUR BROTHER, ESAU. NOW, YOUR BROTHER IS GONE ON A LONG JOURNEY, AND I HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT THERE'S NOT A LOT OF FORAGING THAT HE CAN DO. SO IF YOU FOLLOW HIS PATH, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT THAT HE WAS VERY HUNGRY. AND THAT'S WHAT JACOB DID, AND SURE ENOUGH, THERE WAS ESAU. AND JACOB SAID, I WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT. I WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK. BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME YOUR BIRTHRIGHT. AND WHEN A MAN IS IN DESPERATE STRAITS, HE WILL GIVE UP EVERYTHING. DEVIL EVEN TOLD GOD THAT AND GOD DIDN'T DISAGREE. SKIN FOR SKIN, ALL THAT A MAN HATH WILL HE GIVE FOR HIS LIFE. LOOK WHAT ESAU DID. SOLD HIS BIRTHRIGHT FOR WHAT THE BIBLE REFERRED TO AS A MESS OF POTTAGE. SO NOW THAT HE'S GOTTEN THAT PART TAKEN CARE OF, THEY'VE GOT TO FOOL THIS OLD MAN. BUT THE OLD MAN IS BLIND. SO HIS MOTHER SAID WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS TAKE SOME OF THESE ANIMAL SKINS AND I'M GOING TO FASHION A GARMENT FOR YOU BECAUSE YOUR FATHER NO LONGER CAN USE HIS EYES SO HIS HANDS WILL BE HIS WAY OF SEEING. SO WHAT WE'RE

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GOING TO DO IS COVER YOU WITH THIS ANIMAL SKIN. AND WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR FATHER FOR THIS BLESSING, THEN HE WILL WANT TO FEEL OF YOU. SO THAT'S WHAT JACOB DID. AND HIS FATHER TOLD HIM, ESAU, THAT'S WHO HE THOUGHT HE WAS DEALING WITH, I LIKE THAT SAVORY STEW THAT YOUR MOTHER MADE. SO GO FETCH ONE OF THE ANIMALS AND KILL HIM AND PREPARE HIM AND BRING ME SOME OF THAT STEW. WELL, THE MOTHER HAD A LAMB SLAUGHTERED, SEASONED IT, AND CREATED THE SAME EFFECT. SO WHEN JACOB BROUGHT IT, THIS IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT HIS FATHER IS DEALING WITH ESAU. HIS FATHER'S NAME WAS ISAAC. AND HE DIDN'T LIVE UP TO THE FIRST PART OF HIS NAME BECAUSE HIS EYES WERE NOT WORKING. SO HE SAID, JACOB...HE SAID, ESAU, I'M GOING TO GO THROUGH THIS CEREMONY. NOW COME OVER HERE. YOU FED ME. NOW LET ME TOUCH YOU AND BE SURE THAT YOU'RE WHO I THINK YOU ARE. AND SO HIS FATHER TOUCHED HIM. AND JACOB SPOKE A WORD OR TWO, AND THAT'S WHERE HE DROPPED HIS MONEY PURSE. BUT THE FATHER TRUSTED WHAT HE FELT MORE THAN WHAT HE HEARD. HE SAID, THIS IS STRANGE TO ME. YOU HAVE THE SKIN OF ESAU BUT YOU HAVE THE VOICE OF JACOB, THE SKIN OF ESAU BUT THE VOICE OF JACOB. A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND HERE HAVE THAT VOICE OF JACOB, THAT DISASSEMBLING, DISINGENUOUS, DISHONEST, HYPOCRITICAL VOICE THAT SAYS WHAT THEY THINK THE LISTENER WANTS TO HEAR. BUT WHEN THEY STAND, THEY GIVE THE APPEARANCE...
[LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...OF SOMEBODY WHO IS VERY SINCERE, VERY CONCERNED, VERY FEELING. AND THEY MANIFEST IT ALL WHEN WOODMEN OF THE WORLD COMES HERE AND NEEDS TO PARTAKE OF THE LARGESS THAT THE STATE CAN GIVE. AND IT SEEMS THAT THEY MUST BE GENEROUS BECAUSE THEY'RE GIVING TO THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE. BUT WHEN THE POOR WIDOW COMES WITH HER LITTLE CHILDREN IN TOW, THEY'RE SENT AWAY WITH NOTHING. BUT TOO LATE WILL THE WIDOW FIND OUT WHAT IT IS SHE'S DEALING WITH. AND I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT I THINK IS BEING DEALT WITH ON THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE AS I SEE IT, AND LET YOUR DEEDS PROVE THAT I'M WRONG, NOT JUST WHAT YOU SAY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

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SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I RESPECTFULLY RISE IN OPPOSITION TO FA56, SIMILAR TO THE RATIONALE I GAVE ON FA55. IT'S NOT THAT I AGREE 100 PERCENT WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR WHAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IS SUGGESTING OR ACTIVITIES THEY'RE ENGAGING IN. OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE SOME BILLS THAT WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT I'VE HAD SOME DISAGREEMENTS ON. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE REDUCING THEIR SALARY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SALARY, THROUGH THE CONSTITUTIONAL SALARIES OFFICER'S BILL WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE WAY FOR ME TO EXPRESS MY FRUSTRATION OR DISAPPOINTMENT IN RESPECTS TO DEALING WITH A CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER. WITH THAT BEING SAID, I OBVIOUSLY FULLY RESPECT SENATOR CHAMBERS' PERSPECTIVES AND POINTS OF VIEW OF WANTING TO BRING AN AMENDMENT LIKE THIS. IT'S THE PREROGATIVE OF ANY MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE TO DO THIS AS WE'VE DISCUSSED THAT BEFORE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND THROUGH THE PROCESS AS WE GO THROUGH GENERAL, SELECT, AND FINAL READING. BUT I JUST WOULD POLITELY URGE THE BODY TO NOT ADVANCE FA56 AS PART OF THE UNDERLYING COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND, SENATOR MELLO, I WILL...AFTER I CLOSE ON THIS, I WILL PULL THIS ONE ALSO. BUT I WANTED TO ZERO IN ON THE SUBJECT THAT IS BEFORE US AND USE IT AS A MEANS TO SAY WHAT I WANT TO HAVE IN THE RECORD. DO I THINK ANYBODY ON THIS FLOOR PAYS ATTENTION TO WHAT HAPPENS HERE LIKE I DO? OF COURSE NOT. I THINK THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DOES A LOT OF WORK, AS IS THE CASE WITH THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. I GET LETTERS FROM PEOPLE AND CALLS AND THEY'LL BE THANKING ME AND THEY SAY, YOU HAVE A THANKLESS JOB. I SAY YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK ME. I'M PAID FOR WHAT I DO. I'M NOT DOING IT FOR THANKS. IF NOBODY THANKS ME, I'M GOING TO DO THE JOB THE WAY I DO IT BECAUSE I'M DOING IT BECAUSE I THINK IT'S RIGHT, NOT BECAUSE YOU OR ANYONE ELSE WOULD THANK ME. AND ALTHOUGH I'M PAID FOR IT, THAT LITTLE PIDDLING AMOUNT OF MONEY IS NOT AN INCENTIVE FOR ME TO DO WHAT IT IS THAT I DO. AS A MATTER OF FACT, NOBODY COULD PAY ME ENOUGH TO DO WHAT I DO IF THE ONLY REASON I WAS DOING IT WAS FOR MONEY. COME HERE AND WASTE ALL OF THIS INTELLECTUAL ENERGY, CASTING PEARLS, TO QUOTE FROM THE "BIBBLE." NO, I WOULDN'T DO IT. AND THERE'S NO TYRANT WHO COULD PUT ME IN SUCH FEAR THAT I WOULD DO LIKE THIS BECAUSE I'M AFRAID

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OF SOMEBODY. BUT BECAUSE I AM MY OWN PERSON I WILL SAY WHAT I THINK I SHOULD SAY, DO WHAT I THINK I SHOULD DO. AND AS LONG AS I THINK I'M RIGHT, I WILL APOLOGIZE TO NOBODY FOR ANYTHING THAT I SAY OR ANYTHING THAT I DO. THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET AN APOLOGY OUT OF ME IS TO CONVINC ME THAT I DID SOMETHING WRONG THAT I KNEW WAS WRONG. AND THAT'S NOT GOING HAPPEN. THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS WRONG BUT I WAS REALLY RIGHT. I ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT I HAD VOTED FOR ONE OF THOSE...SENATOR BRASHEAR USED TO BE THE SPEAKER. HE HAD ONE OF THOSE PRESTIGE LICENSE PLATE BILLS, AND WHATEVER MONEY WAS REALIZED FROM IT WOULD GO INTO A FUND THAT WOULD HELP THE ATHLETES. SO I ALLOWED, AS THE GATEKEEPER, SENATOR WILLIAMS, THAT BILL TO PASS. AND I HAD BEEN SAYING THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE OF THOSE KIND OF LICENSE PLATES THAT I VOTED FOR AND I DESCRIBED THAT ONE. THEN I WENT BACK AND CHECKED THE RECORD. I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO VOTED AGAINST IT. SO I WAS...I THOUGHT I WAS RIGHT BUT I WAS WRONG. AND THE TIME THAT I THOUGHT I DID SOMETHING WRONG, I HAD DONE SOMETHING THAT WAS RIGHT. HOW CAN YOU BEAT THAT? I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S A PERSON ON THIS FLOOR WHO CARES ABOUT THE LEGISLATURE AS AN INSTITUTION THE WAY THAT I DO. YOU COULDN'T CARE ABOUT IT AND DO WHAT YOU DO. YOU COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS THAT WE HAVE OUR DISPOSAL AND BEHAVE IN THE MILQUETOAST, FRIGHTENED WAY THAT YOU DO. YOU LET PEOPLE WHO WOULDN'T LET YOU COME INTO THEIR CLUBHOUSE DICTATE TO YOU WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO DOWN HERE AND YOU HAVE THE POWER. NOW I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHY I'M DOING IT ON THIS BUDGET BILL. I COULD FIND A TIME AT ANY POINT IN THE SESSION TO SAY WHAT I'M SAYING. I BELIEVE IN OBJECT LESSONS. I'M TEACHING KINDERGARTNERS TODAY. I TELL YOU ABOUT THE POWER OF THE PERSON. NOW I'M TEACHING YOU. THIS IS THE MONEY THAT WE CONTROL... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...IN TERMS OF WHERE IT GOES, HOW MUCH AND WHO GETS IT. WE CONTROL THE PURSE STRINGS, AND THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT AND YOU DON'T REALIZE IT. THE BEST TOOL YOU'VE GOT, YOU'RE AFRAID TO USE IT. YOU LET THEM DICTATE TO YOU. YOU CAN'T GO IN THE GOVERNOR'S INNER SANCTUM AND DO ANYTHING OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. IN FACT, THEY SUMMON YOU. (WHISTLES) OH, LASSIE, RIN TIN TIN. COME HERE BOY. AND IF YOU'RE IN THE CARTOON, OH, BELVEDERE, COME HERE, BOY. AND HERE YOU COME. YOU CONTROL THE PURSE STRINGS. AND YOU DON'T KNOW THAT THOUGH, AND YOU WON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. THEY CAN SUMMON YOU

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OUT OF HERE AND HAVE YOU RUNNING IN AND OUT OF HERE LIKE THEY DID WHEN WE WERE ON THOSE BILLS THAT RELATED TO PRISON REFORM, SENDING PIECES OF PAPER WITH YOUR NAME ON IT, GET OUT HERE, AND HERE YOU GO RUNNING. (PANTING) [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HE'D SAY, PUT YOUR...SHUT YOUR MOUTH. PUT YOUR TONGUE IN YOUR MOUTH,... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...SHUT IT, AND STOP SLOBBERING. THANK YOU. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: TIME. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN THIS HAS GOT TO BE SINFUL BASED ON THE WAY CHRISTIANS RECKON LIFE. THERE'S A QUESTION ASKED IN THE BIBLE AND IT'S NOT ANSWERED. NOTICE I SAID THE BIBLE. THAT IS THE CONCESSION I'M MAKING TO SENATOR HILKEMANN THIS MORNING, SO HE BETTER ENJOY IT THIS MORNING. THIS IS FROM THE BIBLE, THE B-I-B-L-E. BUT IF YOU SPELL...IF YOU PRONOUNCE THE B-I-B-L-I-C-A-L, IT'S BIBLICAL. SO THIS IS SOMETHING BIBLICAL FROM THE BIBLE. I DON'T KNOW IF I OUGHT TO TELL YOU ALL THIS. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE UP TO THAT. I MIGHT DECIDE TO TELL YOU AND THEN I MIGHT NOT. OKAY. THEY SAY YOU HAVE A PURITAN HERITAGE. THE WORST THING THAT A PURITAN SAW WAS SOMEBODY ENJOYING HIMSELF OR HERSELF. THAT'S THE HOTTEST PLACE IN HELL THAT SOMEBODY OUGHT TO BE. BUT WHAT REALLY IS HELL FOR A PURITAN IS TO BE IN A POSITION WHERE HE OR SHE HAS TO MIND HIS OR HER OWN BUSINESS. THAT'S HELL FOR A PURITAN. OH, THEY SAID THEY WANT TO COME OVER TO AMERICA SO THEY COULD WORSHIP IN THEIR OWN WAY AND THEN COMPEL OTHERS TO DO THE SAME WORSHIP IN THE PURITAN'S WAY. A BUNCH OF THOSE STRONG CHRISTIANS WERE UP IN MASSACHUSETTS AND THEY DIDN'T LIKE SOMEBODY SO THEY'D SAY, THAT'S A WITCH. AND IT WASN'T JUST A TERM JUST APPLIED TO MEN...WOMEN. THERE WAS THIS ONE GUY AND IT WAS PORTRAYED IN A MOVIE. AND HE WAS BEING PRESSED. THAT'S WHEN THEY SPREAD EAGLE YOU ON THE GROUND AND TIE YOU DOWN. THEN THEY START STACKING STONES ON YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AND THIS OLD GUY WAS HAVING THE STONES PRESSED ON HIM. AFTER

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THEY PUT THE STONE ON HIM, THEY WOULD LEAN AND PUT WEIGHT ON IT. SO HE...YOU'D HEAR HIS BREATH GOING (EXPELS BREATH) THEN HE TAKE IN A BREATH. AND THEN THEY HEARD HIM MURMURING SOMETHING. SO THEY THOUGHT AT LAST THEY WERE GOING TO EXTORT FROM HIM A CONFESSION. SO THEY FIGURED, WELL, NOW WE'VE GOT ABOUT HOWEVER MUCH WEIGHT IT IS THESE STONES AMOUNT TO AND HE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE, SO LET'S LISTEN TO HIS CONFESSION. SO THIS HEAD INQUISITOR PUT HIS EAR RIGHT NEXT TO THE MAN'S QUIVERING LIPS AND HE HEARD WHAT WAS SAID. AND HE GOT THE STRANGEST LOOK ON HIS FACE, THEN IT WAS CONTORTED, TURNED PURPLE WITH RAGE. AND THEY SAID, WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT DID HE SAY? HE SAID, THAT REPROBATE SAID MORE WEIGHT. DO YOUR WORST. THE REPROBATE TELLING THE RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE THEY ALWAYS BELIEVE IN INFLECTING PAIN AND SUFFERING ON PEOPLE. THAT'S WHY THE GOVERNOR OVER THERE SAYS, YOU MIGHT MAKE CHAMBERS, HEARTLESS AS HE IS, FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR LITTLE CHILDREN BECAUSE YOU BRING THEM AROUND HERE WEARING HELMETS SO THEY WON'T HURT THEMSELVES IF THEY HAVE A SEIZURE AND BUMP UP AGAINST SOMETHING. BUT, BY GOD, YOU'RE DEALING WITH A MAN WHO IS A MAN. BRING ALL OF THE LITTLE CHILDREN YOU WANT. WE ARE NOT GOING TO ALLOW ANY OF THIS MEDICAL MARIJUANA. NO, WE'RE NOT GOING ALLOW IT. AND YOU SAY, BUT, GOVERNOR WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, WHEN I WATCH TELEVISION, I SEE THESE PHARMACEUTICALS AND THEY'RE ALLOWED TO ADVERTISE THEM AND SELL THEM AND THEY SAY IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU'RE LOSING YOUR HEARING AND YOU CAN'T TALK AND YOUR TONGUE IS SWELLING AND YOU'RE BLEEDING FROM ALL OF THE ORIFICES IN YOUR BODY AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A STROKE OR A HEART ATTACK, THEN CALL THE DOCTOR. WELL, FIRST OF ALL, IF YOU CAN'T SEE, YOU CAN'T FIND THE PHONE. BUT SAY YOU FIND... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...IT. YOU CAN'T SEE HOW TO DIAL BUT SAY YOU CAN DIAL IT. THEN IF SOMEBODY IS ON THE OTHER END, YOU CAN'T HEAR THEM. AND SINCE YOU CAN'T TALK, YOU CAN'T TALK TO THEM. AND YET ALL THAT STUFF IS OUT THERE. THEN WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT OFFERS HOPE FOR OUR LITTLE CHILDREN. WE'RE NOT THE ONES SUFFERING. ONE JUDGE SAID, AS A PARENT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ALLOWED TO MAKE YOUR CHILD A MARTYR. YOU BE THE MARTYR, BUT YOUR CHILD IS NOT GOING TO BE A SACRIFICE. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THAT MAN OVER IN THE NORTHERN CORNER OF THIS BUILDING SAYS. BRING THEM TO ME. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW STRONG I AM. WELL, IT'S EASY TO BE STRONG AND TYRANNICAL WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH VERY SICK

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CHILDREN. I HAVE CONTEMPT. I DON'T USE THE KIND OF LANGUAGE THAT YOU ALL ALLOW YOURSELVES TO USE. AND IF I DID USE IT... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I WOULDN'T USE IT HERE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WAS THAT MY THIRD TIME? [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON FA56. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. THIS IS NOT JUST THE GOVERNOR. THIS IMPLICATES THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. SEE, THEY'RE SHOWING PEOPLE HOW STRONG ON CRIME THEY ARE, HOW TOUGH ON CRIME. AND IF THEY CAN DEPRIVE LITTLE CHILDREN...BUT THERE ARE THOSE OTHER THAN THE CHILDREN. BUT USUALLY SOMEBODY WHO HAS NO FEELING FOR ANYBODY ELSE CAN BE MADE TO FEEL SOMETHING FOR LITTLE CHILDREN. CHILDREN DON'T EVEN CUT ANY ICE AROUND HERE. AND YOU SAY YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THAT. THERE ARE OPIATES. OPIUM IS ILLEGAL BUT THE PHARMACEUTICALS USE IT. THEY CAN SELL IT. RICH WHITE PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT RICH GET ALL OF THESE THINGS FROM DOCTORS WHO WILL WRITE THE PRESCRIPTIONS AND THEIR CHILDREN WIND UP WITH IT, NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE SICK. THEY'RE PSYCHOLOGICALLY DAMAGED. BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CHILDREN WHO DIDN'T ASK TO COME HERE, WHO DIDN'T ASK TO BE THE WAY THAT THEY ARE. AND WE SPEND ALL OF THIS TIME TALKING ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO SPEND MONEY, AND WE DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR CHILDREN. THAT'S WHERE YOU ALL OUGHT TO PAY ATTENTION TO THAT PLACE IN THE BIBLE WHERE JESUS SAID, THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN AND NOT MAN FOR THE SABBATH, TOLD THIS GUY WHO WAS CRIPPLED, YOU STRETCH YOUR HAND OUT AND I WILL HEAL YOU BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE SAID YOU SHOULDN'T HEAL ON THE SABBATH. SO YOU ALL CAN TALK ABOUT THIS MONEY YOU WANT TO SPEND AND HOW. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY COMPASSION FOR THE LITTLE CHILDREN. IF I HAD A FAMILY MEMBER WHO WAS GOING THROUGH THAT AGONY, GOING THROUGH THE SEIZURES, I WOULD RISK GOING TO JAIL TEN TIMES A DAY TO GO WHEREVER I HAD TO GO TO GET WHATEVER I COULD GET THAT WOULD GIVE SOME RELIEF TO MY CHILDREN, TO MY FAMILY MEMBERS. I HEARD SENATOR SCHNOOR TALK ABOUT HOW IF SOMEBODY DID SOMETHING TO A MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY, HE'D GO KILL HIM. WELL, JUST LIKE HE HAS THE KILL SPIRIT, I HAVE THE HEAL SPIRIT. I'D GO TO JAIL TO GET THAT

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WHICH WOULD HEAL MY CHILD OR GIVE MY CHILD SOME RELIEF. BUT NOT AROUND HERE. YOU ALL TALK THAT STUFF, THE FDA THIS, THE FDA THAT. AND THIS GOVERNOR COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAYS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT HE CAN HIDE BEHIND IT NOW AND USE IT AS AN EXCUSE. BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO LET HIM DO THAT TO US. WE DON'T HAVE TO LET HIM REDUCE US TO THAT INHUMANE LEVEL. WE HAVE THE POWER TO DO BY LAW WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR THESE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THAT THEY CAN'T DO FOR THEMSELVES. WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE TO TRAVEL MANY MILES, CROSS STATE LINES TO GO SOME PLACE TO GET WHAT THEY CAN HAVE PROVIDED FOR THEM RIGHT HERE WHERE THEY LIVE, WHERE WE, WHO WERE SENT HERE TO REPRESENT THEM, WILL NOT DO SO. WHEN YOU GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY, YOU ASK YOUR GOD TO FORGIVE YOU. YOU SHOULD STAY ON YOUR KNEES AND NEVER GET UP UNTIL YOU CAN SWEAR TO THAT GOD AND MEAN IT THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HELP HEAL THOSE WHO ARE SICK. YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE WIDOWS AND THE ORPHANS. WE'RE GOING TO USE THIS POWER THAT THESE PREACHERS YOU BRING HERE AND TELL YOU THAT YOU HAVE, WE'RE GOING TO USE IT FOR GOOD, NOT JUST TO HELP WOODMEN OF THE WORLD, NOT JUST TO SEE THAT FARMERS GET BIG SUBSIDIES, BUT TO GIVE TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE NEED. THEN WHEN YOU ALL GO TO THE PEARLY GATES AND PETER OR WHOEVER IS UP THERE AS GATEKEEPER SAY, YOU GO TO HELL. WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO HELL? JESUS WILL TELL YOU. JESUS, WHY AM I GOING TO HELL? BECAUSE I WAS SICK AND YOU WOULDN'T MINISTER TO ME. LORD, WHEN WERE YOU SICK AND I DIDN'T MINISTER TO YOU? REMEMBER ALL THOSE LITTLE CHILDREN DOWN THERE HAVING THE SEIZURES? YOU DIDN'T HELP THEM SO YOU DIDN'T HELP ME. OH, I KNOW IF I CAME THERE AND YOU KNEW IT WAS ME, I KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD DO FOR ME. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT I WANT YOU TO DO IT BECAUSE IT'S RIGHT AND I WANT YOU TO DO IT FOR THE LEAST AMONG YOU. YOU ARE YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER. YOU ARE YOUR SISTER'S KEEPER. YOU ARE THE KEEPER OF THOSE LITTLE CHILDREN WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES. FOR SENATOR...SHE'S NOT HERE RIGHT...OH, YES, SENATOR BRASCH IS BACK THERE. SENATOR BRASCH, IF I HAD A HEART I WOULD BE DISSOLVED IN TEARS ALL THE DAY LONG. I WOULD NEVER HAVE A DRY EYE. YOU'D WONDER WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THIS MAN. BUT, SEE, WHEN YOU HAVE NO HEART YOU'RE NOT SUBJECT TO THOSE KIND OF THINGS. SO I TALK LIKE I TALK BECAUSE MY MIND IS WHAT INFORMS ME. I DON'T NEED A GOD REWARDING ME. I DON'T NEED A HELL THREATENING ME.

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ALL I NEED TO DO IS SEE THOSE CHILDREN IN PAIN AND I CAN FEEL THEIR PAIN, NOT DIRECTLY BUT THROUGH MY MIND. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. OH, I WANT TO WITHDRAW THAT MOTION. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: FA56 IS WITHDRAWN. RETURNING TO DISCUSSION ON LB659 AND THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOW, MR. PRESIDENT, I'M GOING TO SPEAK ON THE BILL AND SOME OF THESE OTHERS THAT ARE BEFORE US. THERE IS A SERIES OF BILLS OR A COLLECTION OF BILLS THAT I PLAN TO SPEND TIME ON BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE WANT TO GIVE \$8 MILLION TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL. AND THEY'RE DOING IT IN ONE OF THE MOST SHAMELESS AND SHAMEFUL MANNERS. WHAT THEY CANNOT DO DIRECTLY, THEY'RE GOING TO DO INDIRECTLY. THEY'RE GOING TO CREATE OUT OF THAT COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, WHATEVER IT IS, THEY'RE GOING TO TURN THAT INTO THE LAUNDROMAT. SEE, THEY CAN'T TAKE THIS MONEY, BECAUSE IT'D BE DIRTY, AND GIVE IT RIGHT TO CREIGHTON, SO THEY'RE GOING TO LAUNDRY IT THROUGH THIS COMMISSION. THEY'RE GOING TO TRY TO CLEAN IT UP AND TELL THEM WE CANNOT HAVE OUR FINGERPRINTS ON IT, SO WE'LL GIVE IT TO YOU AND YOU PASS IT ON TO THEM. BUT WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE IT'S NOT JUST FOR THEM, SO WE'RE GOING TO SET UP CRITERIA WHICH MAY BE MET, AND WHOEVER MEETS THESE CRITERIA CAN GET IT. SO LET'S SAY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS. IF YOU'RE SEVEN FEET TALL AND YOUR NAME IS WILT CHAMBERLAIN AND YOU SCORED 100 POINTS IN AN NBA BASKETBALL GAME, THEN YOU CAN APPLY FOR THIS GRANT. SO WHAT THEY DO, THEY TAILOR IT TO FIT THE ONE THEY WANT TO GIVE IT TO AND NOBODY IS SUPPOSED TO PAY ATTENTION. AND I ON THIS FLOOR AM SUPPOSED TO GO ALONG WITH IT. WATCH THEM MAKING AN END RUN AROUND THE LAW, THE CONSTITUTION, AND ETHICS THEMSELVES. AND SENATOR MELLO IS GOING TO HAVE TO DEFEND IT BECAUSE HE SIGNED ON AND SAID, WHEN I BECOME THE CHAIRPERSON OF THIS APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, IT'S AS THOUGH MEPHISTOPHELES CAME TO ME AND TOLD ME I REPRESENT WHO YOU ALL CALL THE EVIL ONE. THERE ARE TWO BIG DOGS IN THIS UNIVERSE: ONE LIVES UPSTAIRS; ONE LIVES DOWNSTAIRS. WELL, I WORK FOR THE ONE DOWNSTAIRS. AND HE GOT THIS LITTLE PACT, P-A-C-T, AND IF YOU LISTEN TO

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MICHAEL JACKSON, IT TELLS YOU WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO: "YOU AND I MUST MAKE A PACT." WE'VE GOT TO SIGN THIS DOCUMENT. BUT I WANT YOU TO BE WELL-AWARE, SENATOR MELLO, OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING WHEN YOU SIGN THIS DOCUMENT. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO AGREE TO THINGS THAT YOU DON'T AGREE WITH; YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEFEND THINGS THAT YOU THINK ARE WRONG; YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH THINGS THAT YOU KNOW SHAVE OFF ETHICS. BUT IF YOU WANT THIS POSITION BADLY ENOUGH, YOU'LL SIGN THAT PAPER. AND YOUNG SENATOR MELLO SAID, GIVE ME THE PEN. HE SAID, NO, NO. WE GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING BECAUSE THIS THAT MY MASTER TOLD ME TO DO HAS TO BE UNASSAILABLE BECAUSE THE BIG DOG UPSTAIRS WILL TRY FIND A LOOPHOLE. SO TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THIS RAZOR BLADE AND WE'RE GOING TO CUT YOU IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND. THEN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE YOU CLOSE YOUR HAND INTO A FIST AND SQUEEZE, AND THE HARDER YOU SQUEEZE, THE MORE THAT BLOOD WILL DRIP INTO THIS LITTLE CONTAINER. THEN I WANT YOU TO WATCH THAT BLOOD POOL IN THAT CONTAINER. THEN I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS STYLUS AND I WANT YOU TO DIP IT IN THAT BLOOD AND I WANT YOU TO SIGN YOUR NAME. AND I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU A FOUNTAIN PEN BECAUSE YOU CAN DO THAT WITHOUT REFILLING IT. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DIP THAT STYLUS SEVERAL TIMES TO GET YOUR SIGNATURE WRITTEN. AND NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO SAY, AND CERTAINLY NOT YOU, THAT YOU WERE TRICKED OR YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING. YOU KNEW, AND THAT'S THE WAY I COME. I COME MAKING SURE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND GIVE YOU EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO BACK OUT. NOW EVEN THOUGH YOU SIGNED IT... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE. DO YOU WANT TO BACK OUT, SENATOR MELLO? HE SAYS, NO, I DON'T WANT TO BACK OUT. HE SAYS, THEN WE'RE GOING TO FIX YOUR SIGNATURE FOREVER. WATCH THIS, PARTNER. WHAT HE SIGNED ON WAS A PIECE OF LEATHER. SO MEPHISTOPHELES STEPS BACK AND THERE'S A LITTLE WISP OF SMOKE. THEN THERE'S A POOF, AND THERE'S FIRE. AND THEN WHEN THE FIRE GOES OUT, SENATOR MELLO'S SIGNATURE IS NO LONGER SIGNED IN BLOOD. IT HAS BEEN BURNED INTO THAT LETTER. AND THEN MEPHISTOPHELES DOES THIS. HE SAYS, OKAY, SENATOR MELLO, THE BOOK IS CLOSED. FOR A SEASON AND A SEASON, YOU CAN DO WHAT IT IS YOU'RE ALLOWED TO DO IN THAT POSITION. I HAVE TO TURN ON MY LIGHT SO I CAN FINISH THIS TALE. [LB659]

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SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SO SENATOR MELLO, BEING A YOUNGSTER, WILL FEEL, AS MOST YOUNG PEOPLE DO, A CERTAIN SINCERE INVINCIBILITY. AND THE MOMENT WHICH IS VERY PLEASURABLE, VERY REWARDING SEEMS THAT IT'S GOING TO BE THAT WAY ALL THE TIME. BUT AS THE YEARS GO PAST AND ANOTHER DATE IS DRAWING NIGH, THEN SENATOR MELLO BECOMES MORE REFLECTIVE, MORE CONTEMPLATIVE, AND HE'S FARTHER AWAY FROM THAT SIGNATURE THAT HE GAVE THAN HE IS FROM THE DAY WHEN HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO PAY THE PIPER. SO NOW HE'S BEGINNING TO DO LIKE DR. FAUSTUS. SOMETIMES HE SWEATS WHEN IT'S NOT HOT. SOMETIMES HE FINDS HIMSELF TREMBLING AND FEELING CHILLS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER. AND THERE ARE THOUGHTS THAT HE DARE NOT THINK THROUGH TO COMPLETION BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT HE SIGNED AWAY. AND NOW WHAT HE GOT IN EXCHANGE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORTH THAT MUCH. BUT SENATOR MELLO, THE REAL SENATOR MELLO, THE SENATOR MELLO WE ALL RESPECT, THE SENATOR MELLO IN WHOM SENATOR STINNER AND HIS COLLEAGUES PLACE THEIR TRUST, IS NOT THE SENATOR MELLO THAT I WAS DESCRIBING. THIS SENATOR MELLO WHO'S AMONG US DOES NOT HAVE TO DEFEND THINGS THAT HE DISAGREES WITH, DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A PARTY TO TRYING TO CIRCUMVENT THE LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION HE SWORE TO UPHOLD. HE CAN DECIDE THAT TRADITION IS ONE THING, PRACTICE IS ANOTHER THING, AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF PEOPLE ARE YET ANOTHER. I'VE MENTIONED AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH SIR THOMAS MORE WHEN THEY WERE TRYING TO GET HIM TO SIGN SOME KIND OF PAPER THAT HENRY VIII WANTED SO HE COULD GET ANOTHER WIFE AND ULTIMATELY CUT HER HEAD OFF. AND THOMAS MORE WOULDN'T SIGN IT. SO HE WAS SITTING...THESE FOUR GUYS WERE SITTING AROUND TRYING TO GET HIM TO DO IT, AND HIS GOOD FRIEND SAID SIGN IT, SIR THOMAS. SIGN IT. EVERYBODY HAS SIGNED IT. HE SAID, WELL, IF EVERYBODY HAS SIGNED IT, WHY DO YOU NEED MY SIGNATURE? WELL, THOMAS, NOT ONLY ARE YOU A RIGHTEOUS MAN, BUT PEOPLE SEE YOU AS BEING A RIGHTEOUS MAN. HE SAID, WELL, I CAN'T SIGN IT AND I WILL NOT TELL YOU WHY. HE SAID, THOMAS, FOR FELLOWSHIP SAKE, SIGN IT. AND SO THOMAS LOOKED AT HIM. HE SAID, WHEN WE COME AND STAND BEFORE THE BAR OF JUDGMENT, AND YOU'RE ALLOWED TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T VIOLATE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND I HAVE TO GO TO HELL BECAUSE I VIOLATED MINE, WILL YOU ACCOMPANY ME TO HELL FOR FELLOWSHIP SAKE? SO THAT'S THE QUESTION FOR SENATOR MELLO. LIKE THE BIBLE SAYS, I LAY BEFORE YOU TWO PATHS. YOU CHOOSE WHICH ONE YOU WANT. AND HE CAN MAKE THAT CHOICE. AND HE'S ALREADY SUGGESTED THAT AS CHAIRPERSON OF THAT NEFARIOUS COMMITTEE, HE HAS

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TO DEFEND WHAT THEY'VE DONE AND HE HAS TO OPPOSE WHAT ANYBODY ELSE TRIES TO DO. I'M NOT IN THAT SITUATION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. AND NO MAN CAN MAKE ME DO WHAT I BELIEVE I OUGHT NOT DO. NO MAN CAN PREVENT ME FROM DOING WHAT I THINK I OUGHT TO DO UNLESS I'M PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED. I'M LIKE THAT OLD GUY WHO'D BE UNDER ALL THOSE STONES AND WHEN THEY SAY, ARE YOU GOING TO TALK? I'D SAY, YEAH. WHAT DO YOU SAY? MORE WEIGHT. CERTAINLY YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS. WE'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY. WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO. I WON'T BE LIKE GALILEO WHERE THEY PUT SO MUCH PRESSURE ON HIM THAT HE GAVE IN AND SAID WHAT HE KNEW NOT TO BE TRUE, THAT THE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE, IN ALL THEIR HOLINESS, WERE GOING TO EXTORT FROM HIM. THIS MAN, WHO WAS A SCIENTIST AND KNEW BETTER,... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...WAS GOING TO HAVE TO BETRAY EVERYTHING THAT HE'D GIVEN HIS LIFE TO, BETRAY THE TRUTH THAT HE KNEW IN ORDER THAT HE COULD GET SOME RELIEF. BUT THOSE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WERE PAST MASTERS IN INFLICTING PAIN BECAUSE THEY'D HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE. AND YOU KNOW THEY TOLD HIM, ALL WE WANT YOU TO DO, JUST LIKE ALL WE WANTED FROM THOMAS MORE WAS TO HAVE HIM SIGN THIS PIECE OF PAPER FOR HENRY VIII. IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING. ALL WE WANT YOU TO DO IS SAY THAT THE EARTH DOESN'T MOVE. THAT'S ALL WE WANT YOU TO SAY. BECAUSE THE CHURCH SAID THAT THE EARTH WAS THE CENTER OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND THE SUN AND EVERYTHING WENT AROUND THE EARTH. SO FINALLY GALILEO COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYWAY. HE SAID, OKAY, OKAY. THE EARTH DOESN'T MOVE. SO THEN WHEN STARTED LOOSENING THE RACK... [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME, SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB659]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND UNLIKE GALILEO, I'LL HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO HOLD YOU ALL ON THE RACK. AS GALILEO WAS RELAXING AND BEING TAKEN DOWN FROM THE RACK, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY GALILEO SAID? BUT IT DOES MOVE. HE HAD THAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE RECORD STRAIGHT. I TELL MY YOUNG COLLEAGUE, SENATOR MELLO, THAT HE IS BETTER THAN WHAT THAT COMMITTEE IS MAKING OF HIM. AND HE'S NOT THE FIRST ONE. I'VE SEEN A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE IN HIS POSITION. IF IT'S WRONG TO WALK A PATH AND A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE WALKED IT, AND I'M SURE SENATOR HILKEMANN

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WOULD AGREE WITH THIS IF YOU ASK HIM, 1,000 PEOPLE COULD WALK THAT WRONG PATH SO THAT THERE'S A GULLY THERE FROM ALL OF THEIR FOOTSTEPS BUT IT DOESN'T BECOME RIGHT JUST BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE WALKED IT. I'M SURE IF WE WERE IN CHURCH HE'D NOD HIS HEAD AND SAY, AMEN, BROTHER, PREACH. SO THE FACT THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE DONE IT, IF ANYTHING, MIGHT SUGGEST HOW WRONG IT IS. BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING, YOU DON'T HAVE A LOT OF COMPANY WITH YOU. JESUS GOING BY THE BIBLE, I'M GIVING A CONCESSION TO SENATOR HILKEMANN, JESUS KNEW THAT WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE. THEY DIDN'T LIKE HIM. HE WENT IN THE TEMPLE AND WHIPPED THE MONEYCHANGERS AND THEIR ANIMALS OUT OF THE TEMPLE. HE MADE FUN OF THE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE, CONDEMNED THEM MORE THAN I DO. HE CALLED THEM SONS OF VIPERS. HE'D CALL THEM A SON OF A B. BUT IF I CALL SOMEBODY AN S-O-B, THEN I'M A BAD FELLOW. BUT I COULD SAY, WELL, THAT'S WHAT JESUS SAID. BUT SINCE I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN, I DON'T TALK LIKE THAT. SO JESUS TOLD THOSE PEOPLE, BECAUSE HE KNEW MORE THAN THEY DID, THAT THIS IS A HARD LIFE IF YOU TRY TO LIVE IT. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF COMPANY WITH YOU. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FEED 5,000 PEOPLE. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WALK ON WATER. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RAISE THE DEAD, AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HEAL THE SICK. YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUT THERE BY YOURSELF AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS SAY THIS IS WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND THAT'S WHY YOU LIVE THE WAY YOU LIVE. NO CIRCUS TRICKS, NO CARNIVAL TRICKS, NO ILLUSIONS, NO MISDIRECTION, IT'S JUST YOU. BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS BECAUSE I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS. YOU WANT ME TO BE WITH YOU WHERE THERE ARE TWO OR THREE OF YOU. I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO GET A BIG CHURCH. THE BIGGER THE CHURCH, THE MORE SIN. SO IF THERE ARE TWO OR THREE OF YOU TOGETHER, THEN THAT'S WHERE I'LL BE. AND THEN HE'D SAY, LORD, BUT HOW AM I GOING TO GET TWO OR THREE IF...THEN HE'D SAY, WAIT A MINUTE, LORD. IF I'M FOR YOU, YOU'VE GOT TO BE WITH ME. JESUS SAID, YOU CAUGHT ON, HUH? AND THE GUY SAID, YEAH. AND JESUS SAID, BUT I SAID TWO OR THREE. BUT, LORD, ME, MYSELF, AND I. I AM THE THREE SO WHEREVER I AM THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE. JESUS SAID, BINGO. YOU ALL HAVE ALL THIS RELIGION BUT YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT IT, YOU DON'T APPLY IT, AND THAT'S WHY YOU CAN SIT HERE WITH THE POWER TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO 54,000 OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS MEDICAL CARE THAT IS AVAILABLE IF THEY COULD PAY FOR IT, AND YOU SAY NO. BUT THEN YOU HAVE SOMEBODY WHO COMES UP HERE AND PRAYS WITH YOU EVERY MORNING, AND EVERYTHING SAID IN THAT PRAYER BY WAY OF BEGGING YOU COULD DO YOURSELF IF YOU JUST WOULD. NOW IF THERE IS A HEAVEN, I'LL PROBABLY BE THERE BECAUSE I DON'T CARE ABOUT IT. YOU ALL WON'T BE THERE BECAUSE YOU SAY YOU BELIEVE IT BUT YOU DON'T. YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE

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LIKE? YOU ALL ARE GOING TO BE LIKE A GROUP OF COLONEL SANDERS COMING TO HEAVEN, AND YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK UP AND GUESS WHO'S GOING TO BE THE GATEKEEPER? A CHICKEN. AND HE'S GOING TO LOOK AT YOU AND SAY, COLONEL SANDERS, I PRESUME. THEN WHAT? WHO ART THOU THAT JUDGES ANOTHER MAN'S SERVANT? YOU DON'T KNOW. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR OWN SELVES. SO IT'S MY JOB TO TEACH AND THAT'S WHAT I'LL BE DOING. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB659]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'VE GOT TO POKE THE BEAR A LITTLE BIT THIS MORNING. SENATOR CHAMBERS, I HAPPEN TO BE AN S-O-B. MY FATHER'S NAME IS BLOOMFIELD AND SO IS MINE. AND, COLLEAGUES, SENATOR CHAMBERS JUST GAVE US A LESSON THAT SOMEBODY WOULDN'T SIGN A PIECE OF PAPER. THAT'S WHAT THE GOVERNOR JUST DID. HE DIDN'T SIGN A PIECE OF PAPER. I HAPPEN TO AGREE WITH HIM. THERE ARE OTHER MEMBERS IN THIS BODY THAT WILL AGREE WITH THE GOVERNOR ON THIS ALSO. WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY, I'M SURE, TO OVERRIDE THAT VETO IF THE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY SO DECIDE. SO, COLLEAGUES, THAT'S WHERE WE'RE AT. LET'S GET ON WITH THE BUDGET AND DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO, WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR. THANK YOU. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AM1191 WOULD BECOME THE UNDERLYING BILL. THE AMENDMENT PROVIDES FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED LEVELS WITH MOST OF THE ADJUSTMENTS FROM THE GREEN COPY AMOUNTS BEING MINOR DIFFERENCES DUE TO THE CALCULATION OF BENEFITS FOR OUR STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, THE PAROLE RECORD, AND THE TAX COMMISSIONER, AND ALL JUDGES. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM1191. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING TO AM1191 TO LB659. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE BODY IS, SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED WHO WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB659]

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CLERK: 31 AYES, 0 NAYS ON ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. SEEING NO OTHER MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LB659. [LB659]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. LB659 PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE FUNDING OF THE SALARY AND BENEFITS OF CERTAIN STATE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE III, SECTION 22 OF THE NEBRASKA STATE CONSTITUTION AS WELL AS OUR CURRENT STATUTES. THE BILL INCLUDES APPROPRIATIONS FOR SALARIES OF ALL JUDGES, ELECTED CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, THE PAROLE BOARD, AND THE TAX COMMISSIONER. WITH THAT, I URGE THE BODY TO ADVANCE LB659. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING TO LB659. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE BODY IS, SHALL LB659 ADVANCE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB659]

CLERK: 38 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB659. [LB659]

SENATOR COASH: LB659 DOES ADVANCE. ITEMS, MR. CLERK? [LB659]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB104, LB206, LB455, LB123, LB246, LB277, LB283, LB365, LB375, LB515, LB570, LB477, LB513, LB640, ALL OF THOSE REPORTED TO SELECT FILE, SOME HAVING ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. NEW RESOLUTIONS: LR219, SENATOR DAVIS; LR220, SENATOR KUEHN. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1338-1341.) [LB104 LB206 LB455 LB123 LB246 LB277 LB283 LB365 LB375 LB515 LB570 LB477 LB513 LB640 LR219 LR220]

SENATOR SCHEER WOULD MOVE TO RECESS THE BODY UNTIL 1:30.

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION TO RECESS UNTIL 1:30. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. WE ARE IN RECESS.

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RECESS

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER. THE AFTERNOON SESSION IS ABOUT TO RECONVENE. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. DO YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS FOR THE RECORD?

CLERK: I DO. ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB291, LB408, LB310, LB412, LB479, LB296, LB216, LB217, LB218, LB424 TO SELECT FILE, SOME HAVING ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1341-1342.) [LB291 LB408 LB310 LB412 LB479 LB296 LB216 LB217 LB218 LB424]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AFTERNOON'S AGENDA. MR. CLERK. [LB656]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB656 IS A BILL BY THE SPEAKER AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR. (READ TITLE.) IT WAS INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 22; REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. (AM828, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1282.) [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB656. [LB656]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. IS IT POSSIBLE TO WAIVE MY OPENING AND MOVE STRAIGHT TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT? [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SO AGREED. [LB656]

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SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. LB656 IS THE DEFICIT APPROPRIATIONS BILL. IT MAKES ADJUSTMENTS TO FUNDING FOR CURRENT STATE OPERATIONS, STATE AID, AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015. THESE APPROPRIATIONS WILL BE USED IN PROGRAMS WHERE THE FORECASTED COST HAS RISEN OR DECREASED DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WERE UNFORESEEN WHEN THE BUDGET BILLS WERE PASSED TWO YEARS AGO AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED BY THE LEGISLATURE IN 2014. LB656 DOES CONTAIN AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, AM828, WOULD BECOME THE NEW BILL AND REFLECTS THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADJUSTMENTS FOR DEFICITS IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. SOME OF THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE BILL INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION FOR ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, FOR INCREASED HEALTHCARE COSTS AND OTHER ITEMS, FUNDS FOR THE REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT SETTLEMENT; FUNDING FOR THE TITLE IV-E FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE DISALLOWANCES, WHICH, ESSENTIALLY, WERE THE FINES THAT WE HAVE TO REPAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT WERE ISSUED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. I REFER EVERYONE TO THEIR BUDGET BOOKS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SPECIFIC LINE ITEMS WITHIN THE DEFICIT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, THE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE DEFICIT APPROPRIATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 93 OF YOUR BUDGET BOOK. I'D URGE THE ADOPTION OF AM828 AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB656. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO THE AMENDMENT TO LB656. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK. [LB656]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THANK YOU AGAIN TO SENATOR MELLO AND THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR EXCELLENT WORK ON THE BUDGET. I JUST THOUGHT I WOULD REPORT, BECAUSE ONE OF THE MAJOR EXPENSES IN THIS DEFICIT APPROPRIATIONS IS MONEY FOR HEALTHCARE AND FOR JUVENILES. AND WE JUST CAME OUT OF A HEARING WHERE WE WERE TALKING TO THE NEW MEDICAID DIRECTOR AND WE RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH THE NEW MEDICAID DIRECTOR AND HE HAS ASSURED US THAT THERE IS WORK ONGOING TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. AND SO WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR WORK WITH THE MEDICAID DIRECTOR TO TRY TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION SO WE CAN GET HIGHER MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS TO REDUCE OUR GENERAL FUND EXPENSES IN THIS AREA. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB656]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB656]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND I APPRECIATE SENATOR CRAWFORD'S KIND WORDS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SENATOR CRAWFORD'S FLOOR STATEMENT JUST A MINUTE AGO ABOUT AN ISSUE SURROUNDING JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, PRIMARILY THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE SERVICES AND THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID. AS YOU WILL SEE, BOTH IN THE DEFICIT BILL AND IN THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL, THE ISSUE THAT I HAD DISCUSSED AT OUR SENATOR'S BRIEFING, WHILE SOME OF THAT CAME SOMEWHAT OF A SHOCK TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AT OUR HEARING WITH THE SUPREME COURT IN DEALING WITH THE OFFICE OF PROBATION IN RESPECTS TO A LARGE INCREASE REQUESTED FOR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS THAT BEGAN IN 2013. AS YOU'LL SEE HERE, WE DID APPROPRIATE A \$7 MILLION DEFICIT TO THE SUPREME COURT OFFICE OF PROBATION FOR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS DUE TO WHAT I WOULD SAY IS A SPAT, MAY BE A TERMINOLOGY WE COULD USE BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF PROBATION AND THE MEDICAID DIVISION IN RESPECT TO WHO IS REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR COVERING SOME OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL NEEDS OF THESE JUVENILE...OF THESE JUVENILES WITHIN NOW OJS THAT'S LOCATED IN THE SUPREME COURT. THE SUPREME COURT HAS COME FORWARD SAYING THAT THEY NEED THIS FUNDING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF MEDICAID SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED TO THESE JUVENILES THROUGH OJS. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN RESPONSE HAS TRIED TO MAKE CLAIM THAT ARGUABLY THEY ARE GIVING SERVICES, IT'S UP TO THE PROBATION OFFICE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SERVICES OR MAKE A COURT-ORDER CHANGE TO A JUDGE WHEN THOSE SERVICES ARE NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY BASED ON WHAT THE STATE'S MANAGED CARE PROVIDER, THE MAGELLAN, IS SUGGESTING MOVING FORWARD. IT'S AN ISSUE THAT IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY, COLLEAGUES, BOTH, I THINK, IN THE CURRENT YEAR, AS WELL AS SOMETHING THAT WE'LL BE ADDRESSING COME NEXT YEAR. BUT IF ANYTHING, FROM THE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE HAD WITH THE OFFICE OF PROBATION AND THE MEDICAID DIVISION, THEY ARE GOING TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER OVER THE INTERIM TO TRY FIND SOME KIND OF RESOLUTION OR SOLUTION TO ENSURE THAT THESE JUVENILE YOUTH ARE QUALIFYING FOR THE SERVICES THAT THEY NEED IN RESPECT TO NOT USING 100 PERCENT OF GENERAL FUNDS TO COVER THEIR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OR HEALTHCARE COSTS, WHICH WAS RIGHT NOW WOULD BE COVERED THROUGH MEDICAID

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WHICH HAS A MUCH HIGHER REIMBURSEMENT RATE AND NOT 100 PERCENT GENERAL FUND USE. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM828. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO LB656 BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB656]

CLERK: 36 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB656]

SENATOR KRIST: GOOD AFTERNOON. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES, AND GOOD AFTERNOON, NEBRASKA. I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T STAND UP, HAVING BEEN PART OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM EFFORT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND NOT ECHO SENATOR MELLO'S CONCERN FOR THE TRANSFERENCE OF MONEY AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MONEY IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I AM WORKING ON A DAILY BASIS WITH PROBATION AND HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH OUR NEW CEO, WHO I HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN SO FAR, COURTNEY PHILLIPS, WHO HAS IDENTIFIED SOME OF THOSE PROBLEMS AND WE ARE MOVING FORWARD. I CAN TELL YOU THAT THERE ARE SPECIFIC INSTANCES THAT I JUST...I WANT TO RELATE TO YOU. THE PROBATION AREA HAS USED A VOUCHER SYSTEM TO PAY FOR SOME OF THEIR SERVICES RATHER THAN LONG-TERM CONTRACT. VOUCHERS ARE A LITTLE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN LONG-TERM CONTRACTS. WE NEED TO RE-SCOPE AND RELOOK AT SOME OF THOSE THINGS. BUT PART OF OUR JOB, AS YOU KNOW, IS OVERSIGHT. AND I HAVE NOT TAKEN MY EYE OFF THE BALL, SO TO SPEAK, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO STAY THERE AND TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THE ANSWERS WE NEED AND WE ARE TAKING CARE OF OUR KIDS THE WAY THEY NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHEER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB656]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. WOULD SENATOR MELLO YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB656]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB656]

SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB656]

SENATOR SCHEER: SENATOR MELLO, I WAS GOING THROUGH THE AMENDMENT AND NOTICED IN, I BELIEVE IT'S ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE SECOND, THERE'S FUNDING OF \$4 MILLION THAT IS GOING OUT OF THE ARENA FUND AND ONLY BECAUSE THE REVENUE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN LOOKING AT THAT IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS AS PART OF A BILL THAT WE'RE...HAVE BROUGHT OUT OF COMMITTEE THAT WOULD BE UTILIZING SOME OF THOSE FUNDS. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THE PRIORITY WOULD BE OF...IF THIS...IF THE BUDGET IS ADOPTED AND THE BILL IS PASSED, WHICH WOULD HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER THOSE FUNDS? [LB656]

SENATOR MELLO: I THINK, SENATOR SCHEER, IF YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE DEFICIT BILL, I BELIEVE IT'S DEALING WITH THE GIVING...INCREASING THE AUTHORITY TO THE STATE TREASURER TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THOSE FUNDS OR, SO TO SPEAK, TRANSFER THOSE FUNDS BACK OUT TO THOSE COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE THE ARENAS THAT FALL UNDER THE TURNBACK TAX LAW--THE CITY OF OMAHA, CITY OF LINCOLN, AND THE CITY OF RALSTON. THERE IS NO DIRECT APPROPRIATION IN THE DEFICIT BILL FROM ANY OTHER FUND, SO TO SPEAK. THERE ARE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS WE MADE IN THE MAINLINE BUDGET AND IN THE FUND TRANSFER BILL. BUT IN THE DEFICIT BILL WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US RIGHT NOW, IT'S SIMPLY GIVING THE AUTHORITY FOR THE TREASURER TO BE ABLE TO EXPEND THE FUNDS THAT ARE ALREADY DUE TO THESE COMMUNITIES. THEY ARE EXPECTING THESE FUNDS, BUT THE AUTHORITY IS NOT THERE TO DISTRIBUTE THEM. [LB656]

SENATOR SCHEER: AND WHICH OF THE BILLS WOULD THE CONVERSATION TAKE PLACE IN REGARDS TO THOSE FUNDS BEING REMOVED FROM THERE AND GOING TO...I THINK IT WAS THE MAIN STREET DOLLARS AND SOMETHING ELSE. THERE WERE TWO DIFFERENT FUNDS IT WAS GOING TO, WHICH I DON'T STOP THIS PARTICULAR BILL. I'M JUST WONDERING WHICH ONE OF THOSE I WOULD SPEAK TO. [LB656]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT WOULD LIKELY BE LB661, SENATOR SCHEER. THAT'S THE FUNDS TRANSFER BILL. THE COMMITTEE MADE A DECISION TO TRANSFER \$600,000 OUT OF THE CIVIC AND CONVENTION FINANCING FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO TWO DIFFERENT AREAS: ONE,

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE; AS WELL AS THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO FUND A \$100,000 FOR THE NEBRASKA MAIN STREET PROGRAM. [LB661 LB656]

SENATOR SCHEER: OKAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR BILL. [LB656]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. ONCE AGAIN, COLLEAGUES, LB656 IS THE DEFICIT APPROPRIATIONS BILL. IT MAKES ADJUSTMENTS TO FUNDING FOR STATE OPERATIONS, STATE AID, AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015. THESE APPROPRIATIONS WILL BE USED IN PROGRAMS WHERE THE FORECASTED COST HAS RISEN OR DECREASED DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WERE UNFORESEEN WHEN THE BUDGET BILLS WERE PASSED IN 2013 AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED IN 2014. WITH THAT, I'D ASK THE BODY TO ADVANCE LB656. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB656 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB656]

CLERK: 38 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB656. [LB656]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB656 ADVANCES TO E&R INITIAL. MR. CLERK. [LB656]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB657 WAS A BILL INTRODUCED BY SPEAKER AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 22, REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. (AM829, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1282.) [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR BILL. [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I'D LIKE TO WAIVE OPENING ON LB657 AND MOVE DIRECTLY TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. LB657 IS THE MAINLINE APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR THE BIENNIUM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, ENDING JUNE 30, 2017. THIS MEASURE INCLUDES THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL STATE OPERATIONS AND AID PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION TO THE NEW APPROPRIATIONS SET FORTH IN THE BILL, LANGUAGE IS INCLUDED PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPROPRIATION OF UNEXPENDED JUNE 30, 2013, GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION BALANCES REMAINING FOR OPERATIONS WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-16. THE BILL INCLUDES THE APPROPRIATE TRANSFERS FROM CASH FUNDS TO THE GENERAL FUND AS WELL AS SPECIFIC CASH FUND TRANSFERS. FINALLY, IT PROVIDES FOR THE NECESSARY DEFINITIONS FOR THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF APPROPRIATIONS AND PERSONAL SERVICE LIMITATIONS. LB657 CONTAINS THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE AND AN OPERATIVE DATE OF JULY 1, 2015. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, AM829, WOULD BECOME THE UNDERLYING BILL. THE AMENDMENT CONTAINS THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE BULK OF APPROPRIATIONS TO BE MADE DURING THE BUDGET BIENNIUM FOR STATE OPERATIONS AND STATE AID. STATUTORILY AUTHORIZED TRANSFERS AMONG FUNDS ARE MADE IN CONFORMANCE WITH BUDGET REQUIREMENTS AS ARE TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND. I WOULD AGAIN REFER EVERYONE TO THEIR BUDGET BOOKS FOR DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL. INCLUDED IS A LIST OF SIGNIFICANT GENERAL FUND INCREASES AND REDUCTIONS FROM THE CURRENT YEAR, STARTING ON PAGE 32; A NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS STARTING WITH STATE AID ON PAGE 34 AND OPERATIONS ON PAGE 50; A NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL STATE AGENCY BEGINS ON PAGE 98, AND MEMBERS MAY FIND THOSE NARRATIVES PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. THERE ARE TWO SIGNIFICANT ITEMS THAT ARE NOT LISTED AS GENERAL FUND INCREASES, BUT I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO MENTION THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL: THE FIRST BEING A \$25 MILLION TRANSFER FROM THE CASH RESERVE FUND TO THE NEBRASKA CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND FOR THE GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA'S MEDICAL

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CENTER; AND THE SECOND BEING A TRANSFER OF \$8 MILLION TO THE ORAL HEALTH TRAINING SERVICES FUND. COLLEAGUES, WHEN I RAN FOR THE POSITION OF APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR BACK IN JANUARY, I DID SPEAK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ABLE TO MAKE COMPROMISES WITH EACH OTHER AND BUILD CONSENSUS WITHIN COMMITTEES. WHILE THERE'S BEEN DISAGREEMENT AMONGST EACH OF OUR MEMBERS OVER A VARIETY OF ISSUES, OUR GOAL WAS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS MAINLINE BUDGET BILL IN MORE OF A CONSENSUS-BASED APPROACH WHERE WE COULD FIND COMMON GROUND ON AS MANY ISSUES AS POSSIBLE. THE COMMITTEE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY THROUGHOUT THIS SESSION TO PROVIDE THIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE ENTIRE LEGISLATURE, PRIORITIZING WHAT I DISCUSSED EARLIER THIS MORNING OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS. THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED BUDGET ALSO RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY CASH RESERVE FUND BALANCE BECAUSE WHILE WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE GREAT RECESSION FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, WE KNOW THE NEXT ECONOMIC DOWNTURN COULD BE JUST RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. I LOOK FORWARD TO A HEALTHY DEBATE THIS AFTERNOON ON LB657 AND WILL BE HERE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ALONG THE WAY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK. [LB657]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS WITH AM1433. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1343.) [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THESE BILLS ARE NOT IN THE SEQUENCE THAT MAYBE THEY SHOULD BE. SO I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR MELLO A QUESTION. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE. [LB657]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOW, SENATOR MELLO, THIS AMENDMENT THAT I HAVE TALKS ABOUT THIS ORAL HEALTH AND TRAINING SERVICE FUND, CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THIS BILL WOULD TAKE MONEY FROM THAT FUND AND GIVE IT TO THIS COORDINATING COMMISSION. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT THE BILL THAT WILL CREATE THAT FUND, WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO YET, HAVE WE? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: WE HAVE NOT AND WE WILL GET TO THAT ON LB661, THE FUND TRANSFERS BILL, WHERE WE CREATE THE FUND TO APPROPRIATE THE INITIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY. [LB657 LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER WE TAKE THESE ITEMS OUT OF SEQUENCE? FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD I GO AHEAD AND PRESENT WHAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT ON LB657, WHICH TRANSFERS MONEY FROM THAT ORAL HEALTHCARE FUND? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR CHAMBERS, IF YOU REMEMBER TWO YEARS AGO, WE HAD AN ISSUE IN FRONT OF US DEALING WITH THE PURCHASE OF A STATE PLANE THAT WAS NOT DIRECTLY, SO TO SPEAK, IN ONE OF THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILLS AS MUCH AS IT WAS A TRANSFER, SO TO SPEAK, FROM ONE OF THE OTHER BILLS. I NOTICED YOU HAD AMENDMENTS ON THREE BILLS SURROUNDING THIS ONE APPROPRIATION ITEM. IF WE WERE TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS ONE ITEM ON LB657, I WOULD SIMPLY ASK THE BODY WE WOULD MAKE THE APPROPRIATE CHANGES IN THE UNDERLYING BILLS TO MEET THE WILL OF THE ENTIRE BODY. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT IN ORDER FOR THIS AMENDMENT, IN ORDER FOR LB657 TO HAVE ANY EFFECTUALNESS, THAT OTHER BILL THAT CREATES THIS FUND WOULD HAVE TO BE ADOPTED, WOULDN'T IT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: YOU'RE CORRECT. [LB657]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE TRANSFERRED MONEY INTO THAT FUND, IS THAT...? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: CORRECT, WHICH IS THAT IS IN THE CASH RESERVE BILL WHICH I BELIEVE IS LB662. [LB657 LB662]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO WE'RE PUTTING THE HORSE...THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE BECAUSE WE'RE TRANSFERRING MONEY OUT OF A FUND THAT WE HAVEN'T EVEN CREATED YET AS FAR AS OUR LEGISLATIVE ACTION. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT. BUT ARGUABLY, SENATOR CHAMBERS, THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT SIX DIFFERENT BILLS, SO IT'S ONE POLICY CONSIDERATION, SO TO SPEAK, THAT'S SPRINKLED WITHIN MULTIPLE BILLS. AND IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF WHEN THE BODY WANTS TO HAVE THE DIALOGUE OR CONVERSATION ABOUT THAT SPECIFIC POLICY CONSIDERATION. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND NOW...THANK YOU. THAT HELPS. HERE'S WHAT THIS AMENDMENT DOES. IN LB657, WHICH IS BEFORE US NOW, THERE IS A SECTION 173. AND THAT DEALS WITH AGENCY NUMBER 48 OR THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR FIRST...I MEANT FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR MELLO ANOTHER QUESTION. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: YES. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOW, SENATOR MELLO, SO THAT I WON'T MISSTATE ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD SECTION 173, DEALING WITH THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH REFERENCE TO THAT COMMISSION BASED ON THIS LANGUAGE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO STRIKE? I WANT TO STRIKE ALL OF SECTION 173. SO WHAT WOULD SECTION 173 DO? AND BY YOU BEING THE CHAIRPERSON, YOUR RECITATION OF WHAT IT WILL DO WILL BE VERY CLEAR TO EVERYBODY, WHEREAS MINE MIGHT SOUND MUDDLED. [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR CHAMBERS, ACTUALLY WITH WHAT YOU JUST DESCRIBED BY STRIKING SECTION 173, THAT WOULD ESSENTIALLY STRIKE THE APPROPRIATION TO THE COORDINATING COMMISSION OR STRIKING THEIR ABILITY TO APPROPRIATE THE MONEY TO THE FUND THAT'S BEING CREATED IN ANOTHER BILL AS WELL AS THE TRANSFER FROM THE CASH RESERVE TO THAT FUND. SO STRIKING SECTION 173 IN YOUR UNDERLYING AMENDMENT ACCOMPLISHES WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AT THIS POINT IN OUR PROCEEDINGS? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: CORRECT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THESE OTHER BILLS WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN ORDER FOR THAT CREIGHTON ISSUE, AS I WILL CALL IT, TO BE COMPLETELY DEALT WITH. IS THAT TRUE? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR CHAMBERS, THAT IS CORRECT. BUT AS I STATED EARLIER, THIS WAS A SIMILAR SCENARIO THAT WE HAD TWO YEARS AGO REGARDING THE DECISION BY THE BODY NOT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FOR A STATE PLANE IN WHICH IT WAS SPRINKLED THROUGHOUT MULTIPLE BILLS. AND WHEN IT GOT STRUCK FROM ONE BILL, I SIMPLY INFORMED THE BODY THAT WE WILL CLEAN UP THE LANGUAGE BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT TO STRIKE THE REST OF THE LANGUAGE OUT OF THE UNDERLYING BUDGET BILL. SO WE DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH EACH SPECIFIC BUDGET BILL ON GENERAL FILE IF YOUR AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOW BEFORE I GO INTO THAT, LAST SESSION THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT BY THE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM IN OMAHA TO GET AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE STATE. AND I WAS OPPOSED TO IT, BY THE WAY, AND I HAD GIVEN MY OPINION THAT THEY COULD...THAT COULD NOT CONSTITUTIONAL BE DONE EVEN IF THE STATE WANTED TO DO IT. AND I DIDN'T READ THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SUBSEQUENT OPINION. BUT THE FINDING WAS, IF I'M CORRECT, THAT IT WOULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL TO MAKE A DIRECT APPROPRIATION TO THAT PRIVATE OPERATION. IS THAT MORE OR LESS CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT WAS MORE OR LESS CORRECT AND THAT WAS MORE OR LESS THE PERSPECTIVE THAT WE HAD AS WELL IN REGARDS TO THE STATE NOT BEING ABLE TO DO A DIRECT APPROPRIATION TO A PRIVATE ENTITY. [LB657]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND CREIGHTON IS A PRIVATE ENTITY. ISN'T THAT CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: CREIGHTON IS A NONPROFIT ENTITY, PRIVATE ENTITY, CORRECT, SENATOR CHAMBERS, BUT... [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THIS AMENDMENT THAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, THIS LANGUAGE I WANT TO STRIKE IS AN ATTEMPT TO DO INDIRECTLY WHAT THE LEGISLATURE COULD NOT DO DIRECTLY. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I WOULD NOT SAY, SENATOR CHAMBERS, IT'S INDIRECTLY IN WHAT THE LEGISLATURE COULD NOT DO. THE LEGISLATURE AND STATE GOVERNMENT HAS A HISTORY OF PROVIDING CONTRACT FOR SERVICES TO PRIVATE ENTITIES. BOTH CURRENTLY DO THAT RIGHT NOW TO BOYS TOWN AND CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT HERE'S MY...I DIDN'T FRAME THE QUESTION ARTFULLY. THE LEGISLATURE CANNOT GIVE THAT MONEY DIRECTLY TO CREIGHTON, CAN IT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: NO. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THIS IS WHAT I CALL THE LAUNDROMAT AMENDMENT, THE LAUNDROMAT LANGUAGE. WE ARE LAUNDERING MONEY, TO MAKE IT PLAIN. SENATOR MELLO AND EVERYBODY ON THAT COMMITTEE AND EVERYBODY ON THIS FLOOR WHO HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN THESE MATTERS KNOW THAT THE STATE CANNOT MAKE A DIRECT APPROPRIATION TO A PRIVATE ENTITY. SO THIS IS DOING AN END RUN AROUND THE CONSTITUTION, END RUN AROUND THE LAW TO GIVE MONEY TO A FAVORED INSTITUTION. PEOPLE DON'T LIKE ME TO MENTION CATHOLICISM ON THIS FLOOR, BUT I KNOW THAT A LOT OF CATHOLIC LAWYERS AND A LOT OF CATHOLIC JUDGES WENT TO CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY. AND SOME WHO MAY NOT BE CATHOLIC GRADUATED FROM THERE. AND CREIGHTON GETS A LOT OF CONSIDERATION FROM THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. AND THAT'S WHY THIS IS THE LAST KIND OF THING THAT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO US, BECAUSE IF THOSE PEOPLE HAVE INTEGRITY, THEY WOULD NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE FROM THE STENCH THAT WAFTS UP FROM THIS ATTEMPT TO LAUNDER THIS MONEY. PEOPLE CAN DRESS IT UP ANY WAY THEY WANT TO. YOU CAN PUT, THEY SAY, LIPSTICK ON A HOG. YOU CAN POUR PERFUME ON MANURE. BUT YOU DON'T

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ESSENTIALLY CHANGE EITHER OF THEM. SO I AM OPPOSED TO WHAT IS BEING ATTEMPTED HERE. AND MOST OF MY TIME WAS SPENT IN DIALOGUE WITH SENATOR MELLO TO TRY FROM MY POSITION TO GET CLEARLY BEFORE THE BODY WHAT ASPECT OF THIS CREIGHTON ISSUE WE'RE DEALING WITH. THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED COULD ONLY BE MET BY CREIGHTON. IT WAS CRAFTED IN A WAY TO ELIMINATE THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BY SAYING YOU MUST GRADUATE AT LEAST 75 PEOPLE A YEAR. THAT FITS ONLY CREIGHTON. THESE PEOPLE WHO DID THIS KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING. THEY ARE TRYING TO DO INDIRECTLY, WHICH IS GIVE CREIGHTON SOME BUILDING MONEY THAT THEY COULD NOT DO DIRECTLY. AND THAT'S WHAT I MEANT BY TRYING TO DO INDIRECTLY WHAT THEY CANNOT DO DIRECTLY. THE DIRECT THING THEY WANT TO DO IS GIVE CREIGHTON \$8 MILLION. CREIGHTON DOES NOT HAVE THAT GOOD OF REPUTATION IN THE COMMUNITY I LIVE IN. THEY BUILT A HUGE HOSPITAL COMPLEX NEAR THE COMMUNITY WHERE I LIVE AND PART OF THE DISCUSSION WAS THAT IT WOULD SERVE AN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT CREIGHTON JUST DID? THEY MOVED THE WHOLE THING TO WEST OMAHA WHERE WHITE PEOPLE ARE LOCATED. BUT BEFORE I ACCUSE THEM... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: DID YOU SAY TIME? MR. CHAIR, DID YOU SAY TIME? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OH, I WANT TO ASK SENATOR MELLO A QUESTION IN THAT ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: YES. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR MELLO, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, IS CREIGHTON MOVING THEIR HOSPITAL ACTIVITY, THE BULK OF IT, AWAY FROM THAT HOSPITAL WHERE IT'S LOCATED RIGHT NOW TO WEST OMAHA? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: MY UNDERSTANDING, SENATOR CHAMBERS, IS THAT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHI HEALTH, IS BUILDING A

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NEW FACILITY ON THE CORNER OF 24th AND LAKE OR...YEAH, 24th AND CUMING, I'M SORRY, THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF 24th AND CUMING. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S NOT A HOSPITAL. AND THEY'VE BEEN BLOCKED FROM THAT. THAT'S JUST A LITTLE STOREFRONT. YOU CAN'T EVEN STAY THERE OVERNIGHT. IT'S WALK IN AND BE TREATED. THERE'S NO OVERSIGHT CARE YOU CAN RECEIVE. DID CREIGHTON MOVE THAT HOSPITAL FACILITY TO WEST OMAHA? AND IF THEY DIDN'T, WHY ARE THEY THROWING THIS LITTLE TICKY-TACKY THING UP BY McDONALD'S? WHY ARE THEY DOING THAT IF THEIR HOSPITAL FACILITY IS STILL WHERE IT IS NOW? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SEE HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR ME TO GET ANSWER? OH, YOU SAID TIME? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, YES, SIR. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'M SORRY, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THOSE IN THE QUEUE: SENATOR NORDQUIST, MELLO, SULLIVAN, BOLZ, SCHILZ, AND OTHERS. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I'VE SERVED IN THIS BODY FOR SEVEN YEARS NOW AND ALL SEVEN YEARS ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. AND AS SOMEONE WHO REPRESENTS A COMMUNITY THAT DESPERATELY IS IN NEED OF ORAL HEALTHCARE, I STAND IN OPPOSITION TO SENATOR CHAMBERS' ATTEMPT TO PULL THIS OUT OF THE BUDGET AND IN SUPPORT OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE. FOR SEVEN YEARS, WE HAVE HAD PEOPLE COME BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND SAY ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE HAVE IN THIS STATE IS ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTHCARE. IN SOUTH OMAHA, IN NORTH OMAHA, AND IN RURAL NEBRASKA, IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTHCARE. THAT HAS BEEN HEARD NOW FOR SEVEN YEARS STRAIGHT, AND TIME AND TIME AND TIME AGAIN WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PUT THE RESOURCES BEHIND IT. IN THIS BUDGET, WE ARE FOR THE FIRST TIME MAKING REAL PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE ON TWO FRONTS. THE FIRST FRONT IS WE

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INCLUDED SENATOR COOK'S BILL, \$1 MILLION A YEAR TO OUR FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS, OF WHICH THERE ARE NOW SEVEN OF THEM IN NEBRASKA: TWO IN OMAHA--ONEWORLD AND CHARLES DREW, ONE IN LINCOLN, ONE IN COLUMBUS, ONE IN NORFOLK, A NEW ONE IN GRAND ISLAND, AND ONE IN SCOTTSBLUFF. SO THOSE ENTITIES WILL BE SHARING MONEY TO BE ABLE TO HIRE AN ADDITIONAL...IT'S ACTUALLY I THINK A LITTLE OVER \$1 MILLION A YEAR, BUT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO HIRE AN ADDITIONAL DENTAL PRACTITIONER WITH THAT MONEY TO SERVE UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUALS. BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU CAN'T EXPAND ACCESS ALONE, THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE ACCESS TO THE WORK FORCE, THE DENTAL WORK FORCE THAT WE NEED, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL CLINIC SPACE FOR THAT WORK FORCE. I'VE HANDED OUT A PHOTO. AND IF ANY OF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE CREIGHTON DENTAL CLINIC, I ENCOURAGE YOU IF YOU HAVE A MOMENT SOMETIME TO GO THERE TO VISIT. IT'S HIGHLY IMPRESSIVE. I WENT TO SCHOOL THERE AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT THIS ENTITY WAS OPERATING OUT OF THE DENTAL CLINIC. THEY SERVE 11,000 PATIENTS A YEAR JUST OUT OF THIS CLINIC. AND AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE PHOTO, SENATOR KINTNER AND I TOURED IT TOGETHER, HUNDREDS OF BOOTHS OF PEOPLE BEING SERVED, PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO OTHER ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE, PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING NOT SIX MONTHS BETWEEN VISITS, MAYBE SIX YEARS BETWEEN VISITS, MAYBE SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T HAD IT AT ALL. AND CERTAINLY FOR MY COMMUNITY IN SOUTH OMAHA, ALMOST 1,800 UNIQUE PATIENTS ARE GOING TO THIS DENTAL CLINIC ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. IN NORTH OMAHA, IT'S ABOUT 1,800 UNIQUE PATIENTS GO INTO THIS CLINIC. AND WITH THIS NEW DENTAL SCHOOL AND THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THIS PROGRAM, IS THAT WE ARE PAYING FOR DENTAL SERVICES, BUT IT PARTNERS WITH THE DENTAL SCHOOL. SO WE ARE NOT ONLY GOING TO SEE A GREATER INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS BEING SERVED, BUT WE ARE ALSO GOING TO BUILD A DENTAL WORK FORCE IN NEBRASKA THAT WILL HELP SERVE NEBRASKANS. THE 11,000 NUMBER, 11,000 PATIENTS, 44,000 VISITS, THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE--I HAVE BEEN ON THE BOARD AT ONEWORLD COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER--THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE PRACTITIONERS THAT HAVE BEEN SENT THAT SPEND HOURS AND HOURS AND HOURS AT ONEWORLD. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CREIGHTON STUDENTS THAT GO AND SPEND HOURS AND HOURS AND HOURS AT CHARLES DREW SERVING UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUALS AND OUR PATIENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY. FROM A FISCAL PERSPECTIVE FROM THE STATE, THIS MAKES ABSOLUTE SENSE. WITHOUT THIS ACCESS TO CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY, OUR EMERGENCY ROOMS WOULD BE FILLED WITH PEOPLE GOING TO THE ER WITH ORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. AND WE ALREADY SEE THAT IN SOME RURAL PARTS OF OUR STATE WHERE THERE AREN'T PROVIDERS. BUT THIS GETS...THIS TAKES CARE OF A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM THAT WOULD COST THE STATE TENS OF

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MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WITHOUT. SO WE COME DOWN THOUGH TO THE QUESTION OF CONSTITUTIONALITY. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THIS COMPONENT OF THE BUDGET IS CONSTITUTIONAL. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PULL UP STATECONTRACTS.NEBRASKA.GOV, SEARCH CREIGHTON WITHIN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. THERE ARE RIGHT NOW FIVE PENDING CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING A COUPLE OF THEM FOR HUNDREDS...OR FOR OVER, ONE OF THEM, \$6.5 MILLION; THE OTHER ONE IS \$3.5 MILLION FOR CANCER RESEARCH AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH. THE STATE OF NEBRASKA CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES ALL THE TIME. THIS IS NOT AN END RUN AROUND ANYTHING. THIS IS SETTING UP A SYSTEM LIKE WE HAVE HAD. AND ACTUALLY OUR SUPREME COURT HAS HELD THAT ON THE CANCER RESEARCH PIECE, OUR SUPREME COURT HAS HELD THAT IT IS ALLOWED, PROVIDING THAT THERE IS A CLEAR PUBLIC PURPOSE. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. SENATOR MELLO, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I RESPECTFULLY RISE IN OPPOSITION TO SENATOR CHAMBERS' AMENDMENT, AM1433. AND TO SOME EXTENT THE REASON THAT SENATOR NORDQUIST JUST STARTED DISCUSSING, I WANTED TO REITERATE. COULD I PLEASE GET A GAVEL, MR. PRESIDENT? THE REASON THAT I WANT TO TRY TO CLARIFY A COUPLE OF POINTS THAT I THINK SENATOR CHAMBERS MADE IN HIS OPENING. ONE, THERE IS NO, QUOTE UNQUOTE, RUN AROUND OF THE CONSTITUTION. THERE IS NO, QUOTE UNQUOTE, SECRET DEAL. I DO APPRECIATE SENATOR CHAMBERS AND SENATOR SCHNOOR COMING AND VISITING WITH ME, LETTING ME KNOW THEY WERE GOING TO OPPOSE THIS PARTICULAR APPROPRIATION, THAT THEY WERE GOING TO BRING A MOTION TO STRIKE THIS, WHICH I APPRECIATE THEIR STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS AND THEIR CANDIDNESS IN REGARDS TO THE CONVERSATION AND DIALOGUE. BUT THE REALITY, COLLEAGUES, IS THAT WE

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CONTRACT FOR SERVICES THROUGH STATE GOVERNMENT ALL THE TIME TO PRIVATE ENTITIES. THAT HAPPENS ON A REGULAR BASIS. THIS CONCEPT THAT WE HAVE LANGUAGE IN THE BILL WHICH, AS SENATOR CHAMBERS AND I DISCUSSED, MOST OF THE LANGUAGE IS IN THE FUND TRANSFER BILL. YES, THE LANGUAGE THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS IS TRYING TO STRIKE IN THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL WILL ESSENTIALLY ADDRESS THE ISSUE HE WANTS TO ADDRESS. BUT THE LANGUAGE THAT STIPULATES, SO TO SPEAK, HOW THE CONTRACT WOULD BE CREATED, WHAT CRITERIA IS PART OF THAT CONTRACT IS LOCATED WITHIN LB661, WHICH IS THE FUND TRANSFER BILL. THE COMMITTEE HEARD TESTIMONY ABOUT THIS AND SENATOR KEN HAAR ACTUALLY HAD RAISED A QUESTION AT THE HEARING IN REGARDS TO THE WAY THE ORIGINAL BILL, WHICH WAS LB584, THE WAY THE ORIGINAL BILL WAS DRAFTED OF WHETHER OR NOT THAT WAS CONSTITUTIONAL BASED ON THE APPROPRIATION DIRECTLY TO THE COORDINATING COMMISSION. THEN THEY WOULD GIVE OUT A COMPETITIVE GRANT FOR IT. IN RESEARCHING THE ISSUE AND DISCUSSING IT WITH SENATOR SCHILZ IN HIS OFFICE, THE WAY THAT WE...ESSENTIALLY THE LANGUAGE THAT THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED THAT WE HAD RECEIVED WAS THIS CONTRACT-FOR-SERVICES APPROACH. SO I HAVE YET TO...I GUESS IF SENATOR CHAMBERS OR ANY OTHER MEMBER CAN SOMEHOW PROVIDE SOME KIND OF LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT SHOWS THAT OUR CONTRACT-FOR-SERVICES APPROACH WE HAVE RIGHT NOW IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, I GUESS THAT WOULD RAISE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RED FLAGS FOR ANY CONTRACT THE STATE HAS WITH A PRIVATE ENTITY. NOW, I CAN APPRECIATE IF YOU SIMPLY JUST DO NOT WANT TO SEE US APPROPRIATE MONEY FOR A CONTRACT THAT GOES TO A SPECIFIC ENTITY. THAT'S A POLICY CONSIDERATION, COLLEAGUES, THAT WE HAVE ALL THE TIME. AND I'VE GOT NO PROBLEM DISCUSSING THIS. I KNOW SENATOR NORDQUIST, SENATOR SCHILZ, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE COSPONSORS OF LB584 WILL HAVE THAT DIALOGUE ON THE FLOOR AS WELL. BUT I THINK THE CONSTITUTIONALITY COMPONENT I BELIEVE HAS SPOKEN FOR ITSELF WITH EXISTING CONTRACT-FOR-SERVICES CONTRACTS THE STATE HAS WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES. AND I DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD GET...WE SHOULD GET MIRED IN THAT SPECIFIC COMPONENT OF WHAT WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US IN REGARDS TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. I THINK IF YOU LOOK THROUGH THE COMMITTEE TESTIMONY, AND BELIEVE ME, WE'VE GOT SOME MATERIALS BOTH IN THE BUDGET BOOK THAT CAN WALK THROUGH NOT ONLY THE CRITERIA, BUT THE UNDERLYING ISSUE IN REGARDS TO WHY WE DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS UNDERLYING BILL, WAS THE NEED TO TRY TO PROVIDE, ONCE AGAIN AS I MENTIONED IN MY OPENINGS, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WAS ONE OF THE KEY STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS THAT THE COMMITTEE MADE A DECISION ON.

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THIS IS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, THE PRIVATE PHILANTHROPIC DONORS, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND ARGUABLY THE STATE OF NEBRASKA WITH THE APPROPRIATION WE PUT IN. NOW, I CAN UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE IF SOMEONE SIMPLY DOESN'T WANT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THIS SPECIFIC PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP. BUT I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THE NEEDS OF ORAL HEALTHCARE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS IN EAST OMAHA, IN NORTH LINCOLN, IN RURAL PARTS OF THE STATE IS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE, WHICH WAS A POLICY CONSIDERATION THAT WE HAD AS A COMMITTEE OF WHY WE APPROPRIATED THE MONEY IN THE FIRST PLACE. COLLEAGUES, I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DEBATE ON THIS. I'VE SPOKEN WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS ABOUT THIS EARLIER, LATE LAST WEEK, EARLIER THIS WEEK. I UNDERSTAND THIS WAS LIKELY GOING TO BE ONE OF... [LB657 LB661 LB584]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ...THE SIGNIFICANT ISSUES WE WERE GOING TO DEBATE IN REGARDS TO THE UNDERLYING APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS. AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO ANSWER ANY QUESTION THAT YOU MAY HAVE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK. [LB657]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS A PRIORITY MOTION TO BRACKET THE BILL UNTIL JUNE 5. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR BRACKET MOTION. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THOSE PEOPLE BACK THERE DON'T SPEAK FOR BLACK PEOPLE. I KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN MY COMMUNITY. I KNOW ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF HEALTH AND I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SHUTTING DOWN A HOSPITAL AND BUILDING SOMETHING ON A STREET CORNER. AND TO PRETEND THAT THAT TAKES THE PLACE OF A HOSPITAL IS INSANE AND IT SHOWS THE DISREGARD THEY HAVE FOR US. ONE OF THEM MENTIONED CHARLES DREW HEALTH CENTER. I WAS IN THE LEGISLATURE AND GOT SOME TOBACCO AND OTHER MONEY APPROPRIATED SO THEY COULD GET A BRAND NEW BUILDING. BOB KERREY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOMETHING FROM THE FEDERAL

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GOVERNMENT. I DON'T KNOW IF THESE TWO YOUNGSTERS WERE EVEN INVOLVED IN THE LEGISLATURE AT THAT TIME. SO FOR SOMEBODY TO STAND ON THIS FLOOR AND SAY THAT THEY'VE DONE MORE FOR HEALTHCARE IN NORTH OMAHA AND SOUTH OMAHA THAN ANYBODY ELSE IS INSANE. THAT'S THAT OLD PLANTATION PATERNALISM. THEY'RE NEW ON THE SCENE AND THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING AND NOW THEY'VE DONE MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE AND THEY CAN NOW SPEAK FOR THOSE PEOPLE. THERE ARE PEOPLE UNWILLING TO GO TO A DENTIST WHO CAN AFFORD TO GO. THERE ARE PLACES WHERE PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD HEALTHCARE, AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO SPEAK ON THIS MATTER BECAUSE THEY WANT TO PROVIDE HEALTHCARE IN THE RURAL AREAS, BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO EXTEND MEDICAID. THAT'S THE HYPOCRISY AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT'S BEING TOLD TO US IS THE TRUTH. AND I DON'T BELIEVE THEY BELIEVE IT'S THE TRUTH THEMSELVES. I DON'T WANT CREIGHTON TO GET THE MONEY. CREIGHTON SHUT THAT HOSPITAL. AND WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THAT CANCER RESEARCH, IN THAT LEGISLATION A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY WAS MANDATED TO GO TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. THERE'S NOTHING IN HERE THAT DOES THAT. IN FACT, THEY TAILORED THE CRITERIA TO FIT ONLY CREIGHTON. NOW SENATOR MELLO SAID THERE IS NO CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE. WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER SOMETHING IS REALLY A CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE UNTIL IT GOES TO COURT. BUT IF THE LEGISLATURE CREATES A CLASS WHICH IS CLOSED AND NOBODY CAN ENTER THAT CLASS, PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, THEN THAT'S A CLOSED CLASS, THAT'S SPECIAL LEGISLATION. THIS IS DESIGNED FOR CREIGHTON. CREIGHTON IS NAMED BY EVERYBODY. WE KNOW THAT IT'S INTENDED FOR CREIGHTON. WE KNOW THAT THE CRITERIA HAVE BEEN CRAFTED TO FIT ONLY CREIGHTON AND TO EXCLUDE ANYBODY ELSE WHO HAS AN INTEREST. IT'S EXCLUSIONARY. I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR MELLO A QUESTION BECAUSE HE'S NOT THE BRUNT OF MY IRE AT THIS POINT, BUT HE IS THE WELLSPRING OF INFORMATION ON THIS BILL. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE CRITERIA THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THIS CONTRACT AND FOR A PERSON TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY THESE CRITERIA MUST BE MET. IS THAT TRUE OR FALSE? [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS TRUE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IT IS CRAFTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ONLY CREIGHTON CAN QUALIFY. ISN'T THAT TRUE? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I WOULD SAY THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA DENTAL SCHOOL, WHICH IS NOT CURRENTLY SEEKING TO RAISE MONEY FOR ITS EXPANSION RIGHT NOW, THAT ALONE WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA TO QUALIFY FOR IT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: CAN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA RIGHT NOW--YOU SAID DIFFICULT, I WANT TO SEE IF IT'S POSSIBLE--CAN THEY GRADUATE 29...75, HOW MANY STUDENTS, 75 IS IT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: YES. AND IF THEY EXPANDED THEIR PROGRAM, THEY COULD GRADUATE 75 STUDENTS. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT RIGHT NOW THEY CANNOT DO THAT, CAN THEY? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT'S THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS THEY ARE CURRENTLY GRADUATING RIGHT NOW, SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND IF I...BECAUSE IT DOESN'T SAY YOU HAVE TO BE A UNIVERSITY I DON'T THINK. IF I WERE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A DENTAL FACILITY, THEN YOU COULD SAY THEORETICALLY I COULD QUALIFY IF I WAS GOING TO DO SOME INSTRUCTING OF A KIND THAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO SAY PEOPLE ARE GRADUATING. IN OTHER WORDS, THE INSTITUTION WOULDN'T HAVE TO EVEN BE IN EXISTENCE RIGHT NOW IF YOU'RE GOING TO POSTULATE THE COMING INTO EXISTENCE OF A FACILITY THAT WOULD GRADUATE 75 STUDENTS AT THE TIME THAT IT CAME INTO EXISTENCE, BEGAN GRADUATING 75 STUDENTS A YEAR, IT COULD BE ELIGIBLE AT THAT POINT, THEORETICALLY SPEAKING. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ACTUALLY, SENATOR CHAMBERS, I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THE LANGUAGE IN LB661 WHICH HAS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CRITERIA OUTSIDE OF THE SIMPLY 75 GRADUATES. IT IS

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ALSO REQUIRED THE GRANT CAN ONLY GO TO A 501(C)(3) ENTITY AND THAT IT ALSO REQUIRES THAT THEY HAVE TO HAVE A FOUR-TO-ONE MATCHING DOLLAR AMOUNT BEFORE THEY CAN RECEIVE THE CONTRACT AS WELL AS THEY HAVE TO HAVE PARTNERSHIPS IN WRITING WITH FIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR A COMBINATION OF FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS SERVING POPULATIONS IN AT LEAST FIVE COUNTIES IN THE STATE TO ALSO QUALIFY FOR. SO IT'S NOT SIMPLY THEY HAVE TO GRADUATE 75 STUDENTS, SO TO SPEAK, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH...OR THE 501(C)(3) HAS TO PARTNER WITH AN ENTITY THAT'S GRADUATING 75 STUDENTS. THERE'S ALSO FOUR OR FIVE OTHER SIGNIFICANT PIECES OF CRITERIA THAT MEETS THAT DEFINITION FOR THEM TO MEET. [LB657 LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT THAT'S WHY I USED THE PLURAL CRITERIA RATHER THAN CRITERION. I'M TALKING ABOUT ONE CRITERION OF THAT CRITERIA. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: CORRECT THEN. YES, YOU ARE CORRECT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND AN ESSENTIAL, THE ONE WITHOUT WHICH YOU HAVE NO CHANCE IS THE GRADUATING OF 75 STUDENTS, AT LEAST, PER YEAR. YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT. EVEN IF YOU DO THESE OTHER THINGS BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT, YOU CANNOT BE ELIGIBLE, CAN YOU? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, AND THAT'S ALL I WANTED FROM HIM. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN A FORTHRIGHT MANNER. SENATOR MELLO HAS DONE THAT. HE SAYS IT'S CREIGHTON. HE DIDN'T STAND UP HERE AND TRY TO SAY HE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY COMMUNITY, HOW HE'S DONE MORE FOR HEALTHCARE THAN ANYBODY ELSE. AND THAT'S WHY I SPEAK ON THIS FLOOR LIKE I DO. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO TALK WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW. BUT SINCE THEY LOOK LIKE YOU, YOU ACCEPT WHAT THEY TELL YOU. AND IT TAKES A LOT MORE THAN THAT. THERE WERE PEOPLE CONDEMNING FIDEL CASTRO WHEN HE TOOK OVER CUBA AND THEY WERE SAYING WHAT A TYRANT HE WAS, HOW HE WAS SUPPRESSING AND REPRESSING THE PEOPLE. AND CASTRO TOLD THE THEN-PRESIDENT, I CAN GO ANYWHERE I WANT TO IN CUBA IN A T-SHIRT. YOU CANNOT RIDE THROUGH HARLEM IN A BULLETPROOF CAR. THEY CAN TALK THIS MESS IF THEY WANT TO AND THAT'S WHAT IT IS. AND WHEN THEY HAVE TO GO TO THAT LENGTH TO TRY

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TO GET THIS MONEY FOR CREIGHTON, I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO STOP IT. I ONLY HAVE 16 HOURS ON THE BUDGET TO DO IT. BUT IF I'M GOING TO BE DEALT WITH IN THAT FASHION, THAT'S WHAT I WILL DO. IF I WILL TAKE 8 HOURS TO TALK ABOUT ORANGE LIGHTS, I DEFINITELY WILL TAKE 8 HOURS OR 16 HOURS TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING THAT IS FRAUGHT WITH INSULTS, STEREO TYPES, RACISM, FALSEHOODS, MISSTATEMENTS. AND I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING THAT SENATOR NORDQUIST SAYS. I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS. IF HE SAYS MY NAME IS ERNIE CHAMBERS, I'LL SAY, WELL, UP TO THEN I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT IT IS, BUT NOW I HAVE SOME DOUBTS. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET SOME OTHER TESTIMONY BEFORE I ACCEPT THAT. IT DIDN'T HAVE TO REACH THIS LEVEL. THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER OR NOT CREIGHTON WAS SHUTTING DOWN ITS HOSPITAL AND PEOPLE KNOW THAT. THAT WAS JUST A QUESTION TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK. WHY CANNOT IT BE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THAT'S WHAT CREIGHTON HAS DONE? THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIVE IN OMAHA WHO KNOW THAT. I WAS CONTACTED BY SOME DOCTORS AT CREIGHTON WHO TOLD ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO STOP CREIGHTON FROM SHUTTING DOWN THAT BUILDING AND STAYING WHERE THEY ARE, WOULD I PLEASE DO IT BECAUSE THEY LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT CREIGHTON WAS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY THAT I REPRESENT. THESE ARE WHITE CATHOLIC DOCTORS WHO WERE WORKING AT CREIGHTON HOSPITAL, SENATOR NORDQUIST. AND HE'S GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I KNOW AND DON'T KNOW. BUT I'M GOING TO OFFER MOTIONS, I'M GOING TO OFFER AMENDMENTS, AND I'LL TALK ABOUT WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT AS LONG AS I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. I DIDN'T START THIS DISCUSSION IN THIS TONE. I ASKED A SIMPLE YES-OR-NO QUESTION: DID CREIGHTON SHUT ITS HOSPITAL? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND, SEE, WHEN HOSPITALS ARE OPENED IN AREAS OF WHAT THEY CALL UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, THEY ALWAYS ARGUE THAT THAT'S THE REASON THEY OUGHT TO BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO BE THERE. AND ANY BENEFITS THAT ACCRUE BASED ON YOU PROMISING TO PROVIDE THOSE SERVICES WILL COME TO YOU. IMMANUEL HAD DONE IT AND THEY LEFT. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HAVE TERM LIMITS. YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AND THEY THINK IT ALL STARTED WHEN THEY GOT HERE. EUROPEANS THINK AMERICA DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL THE FIRST WHITE GUY FROM EUROPE CAME HERE AND THEY SAID THEY DISCOVERED AMERICA. THESE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS, I GUESS, DIDN'T KNOW THEY HADN'T BEEN DISCOVERED OR THAT THEY DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL THEY WERE

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DISCOVERED. AND THOSE ARE THE INSULTS THAT WE DEAL WITH IN SCHOOL AND EVERYWHERE ELSE. BUT ON THIS FLOOR I'M GOING TO COUNTERACT THEM. YOU ALL HAVE THE VOTES AND YOU MIGHT HAVE TO SHUT ME OFF. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THOSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR SULLIVAN, BOLZ, SCHILZ, WATERMEIER, AND 12 OTHERS. SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. I DON'T KNOW THAT I'M STANDING TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF THE BRACKET MOTION, BUT I THINK THIS DISCUSSION WE'RE HAVING ON AM1433 IS VERY IMPORTANT. I WANT TO EVENTUALLY TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE REALLY GOOD THINGS AND CONCERNS I HAVE WITH LB657. BUT WITH RESPECT TO AM1433, IF IN FACT ONE COMPONENT OF IT IS TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAINING FOR DENTISTS TO GO WHEREVER, INCLUDING RURAL NEBRASKA, THEN SHOULDN'T THEY BE TRAINED WHEREVER THERE IS A DENTAL TRAINING PROGRAM? AND UNDER THIS LEGISLATION, WE CUT OUT ONE OF THE ENTITIES THAT CAN PROVIDE THAT TRAINING. AND IF WHAT WE'RE DOING IS INDIRECTLY WHAT WE SHOULDN'T BE DOING CONSTITUTIONALLY DIRECTLY, WHAT IF THIS WERE TO PASS AND THEN IT WERE TO BE FOUND UNCONSTITUTIONAL. AND THEN, GOODNESS' SAKE, I WOULD LOSE ALL THE GOOD THINGS IN EDUCATION THAT ARE REPRESENTED IN LB657. SO I AM LISTENING VERY CAREFULLY TO THE DISCUSSION WE ARE HAVING. BUT TO SPEAK THEN ALSO AND TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE COMPONENTS OF LB657 WITH RESPECT TO EDUCATION, I DO WANT TO THANK THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR DOING SOME OF THE THINGS THEY DID BUT ALSO EVENTUALLY WANT TO ASK SENATOR MELLO A COUPLE QUESTIONS. YOU HEARD JUST A DAY OR SO AGO THAT THE LOTTERY BILL ADVANCED ON SELECT FILE. AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAD...TWO OF THE THINGS THAT HAD BEEN FUNDED THROUGH LOTTERY DOLLARS THAT ORIGINATED IN GENERAL FUNDS THAT WE NOW SEE RESTORED IN THE AID IN THIS LB657 WAS THE HIGH-ABILITY LEARNER PROGRAM AND ALSO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS. THOSE ORIGINATED, AS I SAID, IN GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS. WHEN WE WENT THROUGH THE RECESSION A FEW YEARS AGO AND WERE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO KEEP

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PROGRAMS ABOVE WATER BUT FIND OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING, WE RESORTED TO THE LOTTERY DOLLARS FOR THOSE TWO FUNDING PROGRAMS. BUT NOW I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT RETURNING TO GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS AND WILL CONTINUE. WHAT I'M A LITTLE LESS PLEASED WITH, THOUGH, IS THE FUNDING THAT WE SEE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION. A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, UNDER SOME EFFORTS THAT I HELPED WITH, WE INCREASED THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROWTH ON SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING TO 10 PERCENT, AND IN THAT SAME TIME THEN INCREASED THE SPECIAL EDUCATION APPROPRIATION 5 PERCENT FOR EACH YEAR. I SEE NOW THAT THAT HAS DECREASED FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM TO ONLY 2.5 PERCENT PER YEAR. AND TO THAT END, I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR MELLO A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS IF I COULD. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: FOR SENATOR SULLIVAN, OF COURSE. [LB657]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SO GIVE ME A LITTLE BACKGROUND. I MEAN, WE WORKED HARD TO GET THAT MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE GROWTH UP TO 10 PERCENT AND WE KNOW THAT SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS ARE...AND THAT FUNDING GOES OUT TO ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS. WHY DID WE SEE THIS DECREASE TAKE PLACE? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I DON'T THINK WE SAW A DECREASE, SENATOR SULLIVAN. [LB657]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, NOT A DECREASE, BUT NOT AN INCREASE. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I THINK WITH WHAT THE BILL THAT YOU AND I HAD WORKED ON LAST YEAR, THAT WE PASSED THROUGH ONE OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PRIORITY BILLS LAST YEAR INCREASED THAT ALLOWABLE GROWTH, WHICH WAS CAPPED AT 5 PERCENT A YEAR MAXIMUM. WE INCREASED THAT CAP UP TO 10 PERCENT TO GIVE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND, ARGUABLY, THE LEGISLATURE FLEXIBILITY IN TIMES THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO APPROPRIATE MORE MONEY TO SPECIAL EDUCATION. [LB657]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: YES, YES, I MENTIONED THAT. RIGHT. [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: THE COMMITTEE ULTIMATELY DECIDED TO STICK WITH WHAT HAS BEEN AN AVERAGE FOR US OVER THE LAST FEW BIENNIUMS... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ...OF A 2.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION. IT'S NOT THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE ROBUST DISCUSSION OF REALIZING THAT, DEPENDING UPON PRIORITIES AND WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN WITH OTHER EDUCATION FINANCING OR FUNDING EFFORTS IN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, THAT WE COULDN'T CONSIDER SOME OTHER APPROPRIATION ALONG THE WAY. BUT WITH WHAT WE DID, IT WAS ARGUABLY A VERY RATIONAL, VERY THOUGHTFUL STANDARD, KIND OF AVERAGE APPROPRIATION INCREASE FOR SPECIAL ED. [LB657]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: OKAY. WELL, ALL RIGHT. WELL, AS I SAID, WE'VE GOT SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS THAT ARE REPRESENTED IN ALL OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THOSE ARE ONLY INCREASING. SO I RISE WITH CONCERN ABOUT THAT. ALSO, I NOTICE THE ESU FUNDING REMAINS FLAT. I DON'T THINK THEY'VE SEEN AN INCREASE IN SEVERAL YEARS, AND JUST TALKED WITH THE HEAD OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL AND MANY OF THE...SOME OF THE ESUs ARE...IF THEY AREN'T AT THEIR MAXIMUM LEVY, THEY ARE CLOSE TO IT. BUT IF THEY AREN'T... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND I WANTED TO SHARE A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION THAT HELPED ME MAKE MY DECISION REGARDING THE APPROPRIATION TO THE DENTAL INITIATIVE. MY BACKGROUND AND MY ACADEMIC TRAINING IS IN SOCIAL WORK, NOT IN LAW. SO THERE MAY BE OTHERS WITH DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS ON THIS FLOOR. HOWEVER, I WAS PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT A CASE THAT IS STATE v. CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY v. SMITH THAT ALLOWS STATES TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS FOR RESEARCH OF CANCER AND SMOKING DISEASES. AND MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO APPROPRIATE DOLLARS TO A PRIVATE ENTITY IF IT IS FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE. THE CASE AND MY UNDERSTANDING AS WELL AS MY POSITION AS A COMMITTEE MEMBER DOESN'T IGNORE THE IDEA THAT CREIGHTON MAY BENEFIT FROM THESE

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ADDITIONAL DOLLARS. THE UNDERLYING IDEA HERE IS THAT THE PUBLIC BENEFITS TOO. SPECIFICALLY THEY SAY THAT BENEFIT IS DISTINGUISHED FROM PURPOSE AND THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE AND PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE STATE'S CONTRACT REGARDING CANCER RESEARCH IS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEBRASKA. SO THAT IS WHAT I FOUND TO BE USEFUL IN THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURT CASE THAT I WAS PROVIDED IN MAKING THIS DISCERNMENT ABOUT THE APPROPRIATION. IF IT IS FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE, AND I THINK THERE IS A CLEAR PUBLIC PURPOSE IN THIS APPROPRIATION, NOT TO MENTION A CLEAR NEED, A CLEAR CRYING OUT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL DENTAL SERVICES THAT LED ME DOWN THE PATH OF FIRST CONSIDERING THAT THIS WAS AN OPTION AND, SECOND, CONSIDERING THE PROPOSAL THAT WAS IN FRONT OF US. AND THIS PROPOSAL IN MY MIND WAS PRAGMATIC. ONE OF THE REASONS THAT IT WAS PRAGMATIC WAS BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY ADDRESSED GROWING THE WORK FORCE THROUGH CREIGHTON OR WHATEVER ENTITY RESPONDS TO THE RFP, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT WILL PROVIDE SERVICES AT FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS, IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND IN RURAL SHORTAGE AREAS. SO I NOT ONLY SAW AN IMPACT WITH A PUBLIC PURPOSE; I SAW A STATEWIDE IMPACT WITH A PUBLIC PURPOSE, AND THAT WAS MEANINGFUL TO ME. THE FINAL PIECE THAT I THINK IS WORTH SHARING AND ARTICULATING REGARDING THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE IS THAT THE FOLKS WHO HAVE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH US TO BRING THIS LANGUAGE FORWARD DID NOT REQUIRE ANY SORT OF TIME LIMIT. THESE INITIATIVES ARE AGREED TO IN PERPETUITY FOR THE PERSON OR ENTITY OR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, HOWEVER WE WANT TO FRAME IT HERE, WHO RESPONDS TO THE RFP. THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD BANG FOR OUR BUCK. IF THIS ENTITY MOVES FORWARD IN PERPETUITY AND CONTINUES TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES, I THINK THAT'S VALUABLE, I THINK THAT'S MEANINGFUL. I THINK THAT MEANS THAT THERE ARE FEWER KIDS WITH TOOTHACHES, THERE ARE MORE ADULTS WHO CAN MAKE IT TO WORK THE NEXT DAY BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT IN PAIN. AND WE'RE GROWING A WORK FORCE THAT IS A WORK FORCE IN DEMAND. SO, COLLEAGUES, I AM NOT A MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE DYNAMICS THAT ARE A BIGGER PART OF THIS CONVERSATION. BUT AS AN APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER, I WANTED TO WALK YOU THROUGH MY LOGIC AND MY DECISION MAKING IN MAKING THIS INVESTMENT. AND I HOPE THAT YOU'LL CONSIDER THOSE FACTS JUST AS I DID. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. GOOD AFTERNOON. AND I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERING THIS, INCLUDING THIS, BRINGING IT TO THE FLOOR IN THE MAINLINE BUDGET. AND I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK EVERYBODY THAT'S ASKING QUESTIONS AND WONDERING ABOUT WHERE THIS BILL OR THIS INITIATIVE, WHERE ITS PLACE IS IN OUR BUDGET THIS YEAR. AND SO I JUST WANTED TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MY REASONING FOR COMING DOWN AND INTRODUCING THIS. FOR THREE YEARS WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT MEDICAID EXPANSION AND I LOOKED OUT THERE TO SEE WHAT THE SITUATION WAS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD, AND EVERYWHERE I TURNED IT WAS LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE. AND I USED THAT AS AN ARGUMENT AS TO WHY I WASN'T GOING TO SUPPORT IT, BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK THAT WE COULD JUST THROW MONEY AT SOMETHING WHERE WE DON'T HAVE THE HUMAN RESOURCES AND/OR THE EXPERTISE TO CARRY THAT OUT FOR EVERYBODY THAT WOULD COME ON BOARD. SO I TOLD MYSELF AT THAT TIME THAT WHENEVER I GOT AN OPPORTUNITY THAT MAKES SENSE TO BRING MORE HEALTHCARE TO RURAL NEBRASKA, I'D PICK IT UP AND GO WITH IT. THUS, WHEN I WAS ASKED ABOUT THE CREIGHTON, I.E., ORAL HEALTH GRANT INITIATIVE, I SAID YES. YOU KNOW, WE'VE HEARD COMMENTS ABOUT, YOU KNOW, IS THERE REALLY A SHORTAGE? WELL, I JUST PULLED UP A HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DOCUMENT THAT WAS LAST ISSUED JANUARY OF 2015, AND AS I LOOK THROUGH HERE I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR ALL THE COUNTIES THAT HAVE SHORTAGES. BUT I GUESS THAT ONE PROBABLY HAD ENOUGH LAST NIGHT, SO. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS. IF I'D READ DOWN THROUGH ALL THE COUNTIES, YOU WOULD GET VERY TIRED VERY FAST. AND IT'S NOT JUST WHAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER MOST OF THE RURAL COUNTIES. SO THAT'S WHAT WE DO. ON THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE THING, I THINK THAT'S BEEN EXPLAINED. I THINK PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT MY EXCITEMENT FROM BEING A SENATOR HERE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA WAS TO BE ABLE TO PARTNER UP AN INSTITUTION LIKE CREIGHTON THAT, BY THE WAY, ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF ALL THE PEOPLE THAT WANT TO GO INTO DENTAL SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES APPLY TO THAT INSTITUTION. YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES IN NEBRASKA WE REALLY DON'T TOUT THE GOOD THINGS WE HAVE, AND WE NEED TO DO THAT AS WELL. BUT I WAS LOOKING AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING SOMEONE LIKE CREIGHTON, SOMEONE THAT CAN BRING THAT HEALTHCARE TO DIFFERENT PLACES, AND PARTNER UP WITH THEM FOR THE BENEFITS OF RURAL NEBRASKA, BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN BRINGING NEBRASKANS TOGETHER TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS. AND I KNOW WE HAVE ISSUES OUT THERE IN DIFFERENT PLACES. BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, AND I CAN SHOW ANYBODY THIS DOCUMENT,

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THE ISSUES FOR ORAL HEALTHCARE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AS FAR AS ACCESS GOES ARE WIDESPREAD. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHILZ: SO I BELIEVE IN THE BILL, I BELIEVE THAT WE WHEN YOU SEE THAT IT HAS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS TO SEND PEOPLE OUT THAT WILL INCREASE THEIR CLASS SIZE BY UP TO 30 KIDS PER YEAR, IT'LL GET THIS OPERATION OFF THE GROUND, IT'LL PUT PEOPLE TO WORK TO BUILD THINGS, IT WILL BRING OTHER JOBS TO THE COMMUNITIES. TO ME, I SEE THIS AS A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT GOES TO THE GOALS OF GETTING NEBRASKA UP TO SPEED ON OUR HEALTHCARE ISSUES. AND THIS IS JUST ONE FACET. AND YOU CAN TALK ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY, YOU CAN TALK ABOUT CREIGHTON, YOU CAN TALK ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE THAT DOES THIS. FOLKS, WE NEED THEM ALL. AND WE NEED THEM ALL TO UNDERSTAND AND WE NEED THEM ALL TO HELP... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHILZ: ...MAKE THIS WORK. THANK YOU. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR WATERMEIER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, NEBRASKA. I NEED TO EXPLAIN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHY I WAS INVOLVED IN THIS BILL AS WELL AT THE VERY BEGINNING, ALONG WITH SENATOR SCHILZ. IT MAY SEEM A LITTLE UNUSUAL FOR A SENATOR FROM RURAL NEBRASKA TO BE SUPPORTING A DENTAL CLINIC IN DOWNTOWN OMAHA. AND IN THE BIG PICTURE I'LL JUST TALK ABOUT WHAT MY EXPERIENCE WAS LAST YEAR ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN WHICH I GOT INITIATED TO ALL THE DISCUSSION ABOUT LACK OF THIS AND LACK OF THAT, LACK OF PROVIDERS, LACK OF EDUCATION, LACK OF PEOPLE THAT WANT TO STAY IN NEBRASKA AND SERVE US, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL PART OF THE STATE. SO FOR ME, IT CAME DOWN TO REALLY A COUPLE OF BIG PICTURE ISSUES--THE PROVIDERS. THROUGH THIS INVESTMENT IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, WE WILL DO SOMETHING THAT'S A LITTLE UNIQUE THAN JUST PROVIDING TO OUR OWN UNIVERSITY BASE. BECAUSE THIS WAS A STRUGGLE FOR ME NOT TO PROVIDE THE SAME KIND OF SUPPORT TO THE UNMC COLLEGE IF THEY WERE TO ASK FOR IT. AND THEORETICALLY THEY COULD, BUT I WILL ADMIT THIS IS ALL ABOUT

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SUPPORTING THE CREIGHTON DENTAL CLINIC, DIRECTLY SUPPORTING THE CREIGHTON DENTAL CLINIC. AND IT COMES DOWN TO THIS FACT ABOUT VOLUME OF PROVIDERS. IT'S ALMOST LIKE A MARKETING DECISION. WE HAVE A HUGE NEED IN THE STATE DIRECTLY OVER TOP OF THE CITY OF OMAHA. AND ORAL HEALTH LEADS TO SO MANY DIRECT BENEFITS. IF YOU DON'T HAVE GOOD ORAL HEALTH, SO MANY THINGS WILL OPEN UP BADLY BEHIND THAT. IT'S BEEN PROVEN. IT'S BEEN DOCUMENTED. I'VE BEEN SOLD THAT, ESPECIALLY WITH MY EXPERIENCE NOW THROUGH HHS. SO FOR ME IT CAME DOWN TO THE ONE IDEA WAS WE CAN DO SEVERAL THINGS TO INCREASE OUR PROVIDERS ACROSS THE STATE. CREIGHTON HAS AGREED TO REACH OUT THROUGH THE PUBLIC HEALTH CENTERS AND OBVIOUSLY THE FREE CARE, REDUCED CARE THAT THEY PROVIDE IN OMAHA IS A DISAPPEARANCE OF NEED. THE MORE PEOPLE THAT THEY CAN SERVE IN OMAHA TO REDUCE THAT NEED THAT HAS EXPANDED INSIDE OF OMAHA WILL HELP THE ENTIRE STATE OF NEBRASKA. THIS IS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WITH THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND PRIVATE WITH CREIGHTON. BUT IT GOES BEYOND THAT. IT'S ANOTHER PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP. IT IS RURAL NEBRASKA AND URBAN NEBRASKA. IT'S A PARTNERSHIP IN THAT REGARD AS WELL. SO THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO BE AGAINST THE BRACKETING OF THIS BILL. I'M AGAINST AM1433, AND I CERTAINLY WANT TO THROW MY SUPPORT BEHIND LB657. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR COOK, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF THE BRACKET MOTION AND WILL SPEAK SEVERAL TIMES ON THIS ISSUE. FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THEIR WORK IN CONSIDERING MY PROPOSAL, LB82, TO PROVIDE PEDIATRIC DENTAL SERVICES AMONG THE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS ACROSS THE STATE. I THINK THAT IS THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE A STATEWIDE INCLUSION ON AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. I'D ALSO LIKE TO MENTION ANOTHER BILL PROPOSAL I HAD BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ALBEIT LATE ON A TUESDAY NIGHT. I THINK IT WAS ABOUT 9:15. NOT ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WERE ABLE TO STAY THAT NIGHT. BUT MY BILL ALSO PROPOSED AN EXPANSION OF THE WORK FORCE THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO SERVE THE UNDERSERVED IN THE AREA OF DENTAL NEED. I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE SENATOR SCHILZ AND WONDER ALOUD WHERE THAT SPEECH WAS THE LAST THREE YEARS WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT MEDICAID EXPANSION AND MEDICAID REDESIGN, BECAUSE ALL OF THE THINGS YOU MENTIONED WERE

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THINGS THAT THOSE PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE PROVIDED. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. I WANT TO POINT TO CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY'S ACCESS TO THE MONEY THAT THEY NEED TO PROVIDE THE, NOW, EQUIPMENT AND EDUCATION AND SERVICES WITHOUT \$8 MILLION PUBLIC DOLLARS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

ACCORDING TO THE JUNE 30, 2014, STATEMENT, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY HAS \$360,876,000 IN UNRESTRICTED ASSETS. IN 2014 ALONE, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY ENJOYED AN INCREASE IN NET ASSETS OF \$128,153,000. AMONG THE PRIVATE FUND-RAISING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY IN 2014 WERE PLEDGES OF \$4.5 MILLION BY THE CHARLES KOCH FOUNDATION AND THE FAMILY OF OMAHA TRUCKING MOGUL, C.L. WERNER, FOR THE FOUNDING OF AN INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC INQUIRY. CRITICS OF THE NEW INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC INQUIRY SAY IT FAVORS A BRAND OF ANTI-REGULATION, ANTIGOVERNMENT ECONOMICS THAT CONTRADICTS LONG-ESTABLISHED, TRADITIONAL CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT. THAT IS CATHOLIC WITH A LARGE C AND A SMALL C. SO CREIGHTON IS GLADLY ACCEPTING GENEROUS PRIVATE DONATIONS AND THEY ADMITTED TO THAT IN THE ARTICLE THAT WAS IN THE PAPER EARLIER THIS WEEK, OR I WOULD CALL IT A PLACEMENT IN THE PAPER EARLIER THIS WEEK, A VERY GOOD ONE. I'M IN PUBLIC RELATIONS. CREIGHTON IS GLADLY ACCEPTING GENEROUS, PRIVATE DONATIONS AND USING THOSE FUNDS TO ADVOCATE AN ANTIGOVERNMENT, BOOTSTRAPPING THEORY OF ECONOMICS. AT THE SAME TIME THE SAME UNIVERSITY, THE ONLY ONE ELIGIBLE FOR THE MONEY DESCRIBED IN THIS BILL PROPOSAL BEFORE US BY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AT THE SAME TIME WITH A STRAIGHT FACE THEY ARE ASKING THE TAXPAYERS OF NEBRASKA FOR A SUBSIDY FOR THE EXPANSION OF THEIR PRIVATE PAROCHIAL CAMPUS. BUT BACK TO THE MATTER AT HAND. THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST WAS MORE THAN \$16 MILLION WITH THE CAVEAT THAT THE RECIPIENT OF THE MONEY MATCH THE STATE FUNDS FOUR TO ONE. SO THAT POTENTIAL \$16 MILLION WOULD HAVE BEEN MATCHED WITH \$64 MILLION IN PRIVATE FUNDS. THEY'VE GOT IT... [LB657 LB82]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR COOK: ...IN THE BANK, SOUNDS LIKE. THE BILL AS AMENDED SEEKS TO APPROPRIATE \$8 MILLION, BUT THE FOUR-TO-ONE MATCH REMAINS. THE APPROPRIATION WAS REDUCED BY HALF, BUT THE REQUIRED MATCH REMAINS THE SAME. AT THE VERY LEAST, SHOULDN'T A FOUR-TO-ONE MATCH OF PRIVATE FUNDS BE AMENDED TO AN EIGHT-TO-ONE MATCH? THIS WOULD SHOW THE INSTITUTION'S COMMITMENT COMMENSURATE WITH THE STATE'S INVESTMENT OF LIMITED FUNDS. WITH THAT, I WOULD YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME TO SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. [LB657]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: PANSING BROOKS, 22 SECONDS. [LB657]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: (LAUGH) OKAY. THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. I WAIVE. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: WAIVES. THOSE IN THE QUEUE ARE SENATORS CHAMBERS, BLOOMFIELD, KOLTERMAN, CAMPBELL, AND OTHERS. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, SENATOR MELLO, WHO COULD BE CONSIDERED THE HEAVY IN THIS, AND I HAVE CONVERSATIONAL TONE DISCUSSIONS. AND HE JOKINGLY SAID THAT HE THOUGHT EVERY CREIGHTON ALUMNUS WOULD FAVOR THIS BILL, AND I HAD TO POINT OUT I'M A CREIGHTON ALUMNUS TWICE OVER AND I DON'T FAVOR IT. BUT HE WAS BEING FACETIOUS. AND THAT'S THE WAY WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS THING. AND HE KNOWS HOW STRONGLY OPPOSED I AM TO IT. SENATOR SCHILZ HAS BEEN SOLD A BILL OF GOODS BY CREIGHTON. HOW IN THE WORLD IS A DENTAL FACILITY, AS HE SAID, IN DOWNTOWN OMAHA GOING TO COVER ALL OF RURAL NEBRASKA AND THEY CAN'T TAKE CARE OF ALL OF WHAT'S IN OMAHA? THOSE ARE THE THINGS THEY TELL RURAL PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY APPARENTLY THINK YOU ALL ARE VERY GULLIBLE. YOU'RE SO UNACCUSTOMED TO HAVING ANYTHING THAT WHEN THE BIG CITY SLICKERS TELL YOU SOMETHING AND SAY YOU CAN CARRY THE BALL ON THIS, THEY CARRY IT HAPPILY. AND THEY WON'T LOOK AT THE LOGISTICS AND THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION. THERE IS INADEQUATE HEALTHCARE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO DON'T MAKE A LOT OF MONEY THROUGHOUT THIS STATE AND THIS IS THE BODY THAT SAID THEY WILL NOT LET THAT HAPPEN BECAUSE THEY HATE PRESIDENT OBAMA. I'D LIKE TO ASK A QUESTION OF...I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR NORDQUIST A QUESTION. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR NORDQUIST, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YES. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'D LIKE TO SEE IF WE CAN BECOME CONVERSATIONAL AGAIN. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: I HOPE SO. [LB657]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR NORDQUIST, IS THE DENTAL SCHOOL THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AN OFFICIAL, FORMAL PART OF CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THE DENTAL SCHOOL IS. THE CLINIC THAT THE APPROPRIATION WOULD GO TO IS A SEPARATE 501(c)(3) COMPONENT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT IT'S CONNECTED TO CREIGHTON. CREIGHTON DETERMINES WHAT GOES ON THERE, DOESN'T IT? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: I WOULD ASSUME, YEAH, BECAUSE THE CLINIC IS PART OF THE EDUCATIONAL OPERATION AS WELL, THAT THE DENTAL STUDENTS UTILIZE THE CLINIC AND SERVE UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUALS AS PART OF THEIR EDUCATION. IT'S CRITICAL. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. IS CREIGHTON A SECTARIAN INSTITUTION? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: IT HAS A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IT HAS RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION. HAVE YOU BEEN READING IN THE PAPER WHERE THERE ARE CATHOLICS WHO ARE UPSET BECAUSE OF THIS SKUTT MATTER WHERE A FELLOW WHO WAS TEACHING OR COACHING AT SKUTT HAD TO BE...WELL, HE WAS DROPPED BECAUSE HE IS GAY AND HE WANTED TO MARRY HIS PARTNER. AND IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE PURPOSE OF ALL CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS IS TO CARRY OUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHURCH. IS THAT TRUE OR IS THAT FALSE? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THAT COMPONENT IS TRUE. I WILL NOTE THAT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY HAS ANGERED THE ARCHDIOCESE BY OFFERING SAME-SEX BENEFITS AND OTHER COMPONENTS THAT DO FLY IN THE FACE OF TRADITIONAL CATHOLICISM. SO I WOULDN'T SAY IT'S A ABSOLUTE LOCK STOP, CREIGHTON IS DOING EVERYTHING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TELLS THEM TO DO. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH INSISTED ON ANY BILL THAT WOULD PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF GAY, LESBIAN, TRANSGENDER PEOPLE OF WHAT THEY CALL A RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION. THAT WOULDN'T JUST APPLY TO

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THE CHURCH BUT ANY OF ITS OPERATIONS. AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE THEIR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, WOULDN'T IT? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: AS FAR AS THE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE, WHICH SPEAKS ON BEHALF OF THE BISHOPS IN NEBRASKA, YEAH, THEY HAVE BEEN VERY CLEAR. BUT IT'S CLEAR FROM RECENT ACTIVITY BETWEEN CREIGHTON AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA THAT CREIGHTON DOESN'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO TAKE DIRECTION LOCK STOCK FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE. THEY HAVE KIND OF...AND I DON'T KNOW, I DO NOT KNOW AND I CAN FIND OUT IF CREIGHTON HAS ANY POSITION OR THINGS ABOUT ANTIDISCRIMINATION FOR LGBT. BUT I DO KNOW THAT THEY HAVE NOT ALWAYS ADHERED TO WHAT THE ARCHDIOCESE HAVE TRIED TO PUSH ON THEM. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WOULD CREIGHTON BE AS EAGER TO GET THIS MONEY IF A PROVISIO WAS THAT THERE BE NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ANY PERSON BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION? WOULD CREIGHTON STILL SAY THAT IT WANTS THIS MONEY AND IT WILL COMPLY WITH THAT? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: I COULDN'T ANSWER THAT FOR CREIGHTON RIGHT NOW TODAY. I WILL SAY THAT THERE...YOU KNOW, THERE ARE A LOT OF COMPONENTS IN THIS BUDGET, INCLUDING THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANT WHICH GOES TO ALL PRIVATE COLLEGES, AND OTHER THINGS THAT DOESN'T HAVE THAT PROVISION. SO THAT, YOU KNOW, IS A...IF THAT'S GOING TO BE A BLANKET POLICY FOR...OR IF THAT'S GOING TO BE A POLICY FOR ONE ITEM, THEN MAYBE WE NEED TO LOOK AT EVERY SINGLE ASPECT OF THE STATE BUDGET AND PUT THAT PROVISION IN THERE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT YOU'D RATHER NOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION ABOUT CREIGHTON, WHICH IS WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, WOULD YOU? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: I JUST DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO IT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. THAT'S ALL I HAD, MR. PRESIDENT, AT THIS POINT. THANK YOU. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT \$8 MILLION HERE. ANYTIME WE CAN LOOK AT CUTTING \$8 MILLION OUT OF THE BUDGET, I WANT TO LISTEN TO WHAT'S GOING TO BE SAID ABOUT IT. WITH THAT IN MIND, I'D YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE YIELDED 4:40. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I CANNOT GET AWAY FROM THAT HOSPITAL. SO I'M GOING TO ASK A QUESTION OF SOMEBODY WHO HASN'T BEEN IN THE DISCUSSION. SENATOR HOWARD, WOULD YOU ANSWER A QUESTION? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HOWARD, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR HOWARD: YES, I WILL. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AS THEY SAY IN THE COURTROOM, I HAVE TO LAY A FOUNDATION. DO YOU LIVE IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA? [LB657]

SENATOR HOWARD: YES, I DO. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY? [LB657]

SENATOR HOWARD: YES, I AM. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ARE YOU AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THEY OPERATED A HOSPITAL WHICH WAS VERY CLOSE TO WHAT IS KNOWN AS NORTH OMAHA? [LB657]

SENATOR HOWARD: YES, SIR. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HAVE THEY SHUT DOWN THAT HOSPITAL? [LB657]

SENATOR HOWARD: YES, THEY HAVE. [LB657]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND IS THAT HOSPITAL AND WHAT IT OFFERED MUCH MORE ACCOMMODATING AND CAPABLE OF SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE THAN THIS FACILITY THAT WAS MENTIONED AS PERHAPS BEING BUILT ON THE CORNER OF 24th AND CUMING STREET? [LB657]

SENATOR HOWARD: YES, BECAUSE THE HOSPITAL, YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INPATIENT STAYS. WHAT THEY'RE BUILDING NOW IS FOR MINOR URGENT CARE AND EMERGENT CARE. THERE'S NO OVERNIGHT POSSIBILITIES. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND NOW FOR THE BLOCKBUSTER QUESTION. IS THERE ANY WAY THAT ANYTHING OTHER THAN A HOSPITAL COULD PROVIDE ALL THAT CREIGHTON HOSPITAL WAS PROVIDING? [LB657]

SENATOR HOWARD: NO, SIR. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I DON'T THINK SOME OF YOU ALL BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT CREIGHTON CLOSED THE HOSPITAL. AND NOW THEY'RE COMING HERE AND THEY WANT \$8 MILLION OF TAXPAYER MONEY AND I'M SUPPOSED TO GO ALONG WITH IT. AND MY POOR, RURAL, GULLIBLE COLLEAGUES WILL SWALLOW THE BAIT THAT CREIGHTON IS GIVING THEM. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO NEED DENTAL HEALTH IN THE RURAL AREAS AND WE'LL BE THERE. IT JUST HAPPENS THAT A LITTLE GLITCH IN OUR PLANS OCCURRED AND THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO SHUT DOWN A HOSPITAL. WE HAD TO SHUT DOWN THE HOSPITAL BUT WE'LL CONTINUE PROVIDING ALL THIS DENTAL CARE. WHO PRECISELY IS GOING TO PROVIDE THE DENTAL CARE? THE STUDENTS? WILL THE STUDENTS TRAVEL ALL OVER THE STATE OR ARE THEY PROMISING YOU THAT WHOEVER GRADUATES FROM THEIR SCHOOL IS GOING TO STAY IN OMAHA AS A BASE? BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT GOING TO COME OUT AND LIVE WHERE YOU ALL LIVE. YOU ALL KNOW THAT AND I'M NOT TRYING TO BE DISPARAGING. BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT IN RURAL AREAS, PEOPLE WITH CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A RURAL AREA. THEY MIGHT DO MISSIONARY WORK. SO ARE THEY PROMISING THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO MOVE THEIR PRACTICE TO THE RURAL AREA AND SERVE ALL THE PEOPLE THAT SENATOR WATERMEIER HAS BEEN ASSURED WILL BE SERVED, ALL THE PEOPLE THAT SENATOR SCHILZ HAS BEEN ASSURED WILL BE SERVED? AND THEY'RE NOT SERVING THE CONSTITUENCY THAT THEY PROMISED TO SERVE WHEN THEY BUILT THAT HOSPITAL. AND YOU CAN BELIEVE ME OR NOT WHEN I SAY THAT I WAS CONTACTED BY DOCTORS FROM CREIGHTON HOSPITAL WHO ARE ADAMANTLY

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OPPOSED TO IT AND THEY STATED IT PUBLICLY. THEY WROTE LETTERS TO THE NEWSPAPER EXPLAINING HOW INAPPROPRIATE IT WAS. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY USED THE WORD "WRONG," BUT THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE GETTING TO, HOW WRONG IT WAS FOR CREIGHTON, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THERE WAS SUCH A NEED, TO SHUT DOWN. SO THEN WHEN PEOPLE WHO NEEDED EMERGENCY CARE WERE GOING TO BE TAKEN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER, THEN CREIGHTON STARTED SAYING WHATEVER THEY THOUGHT NEEDED TO BE SAID TO CLEAN UP THEIR IMAGE. I GRADUATED FROM CREIGHTON. I MET DISCRIMINATION AT THE SCHOOL. BUT, SEE, I WAS SMARTER THAN... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THEY THOUGHT I WAS. OR LET ME PUT IT LIKE THIS. I WAS NOT QUITE AS DUMB AS THEY THOUGHT THAT I WAS. SO I DIDN'T HAVE TO ATTEND THEIR CLASSES, AND I PASSED EVERY EXAM IN EVERY CLASS. SO THEY COULDN'T SAY THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO DO THE WORK. AND WHEN THE LAW SCHOOL FINALLY WOULD NOT LET ME REGISTER, IT WASN'T BECAUSE I FLUNKED AN EXAM OR FLUNKED A COURSE. IT'S BECAUSE I PASSED EVERYTHING WITHOUT ATTENDING CLASS. SO THEY USED THE FACT THAT I SKIPPED CLASSES TO SAY I WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GRADUATE. AND I TOLD THEM, IF YOU WANT TO MAKE ME ATTEND CLASS, PUT MATERIAL THAT'S SO DIFFICULT THAT I CAN ONLY MASTER IT BY ATTENDING CLASS. BUT WITH THE BRAIN THAT THEY KNOW THAT I HAVE, NOBODY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PASS WHATEVER THEY PUT IN THERE THAT I COULDN'T PASS. I HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH PROFESSORS WHEN I WAS JUST TAKING THE COURSES THAT THEY TAUGHT. THEY KNEW A LOT MORE THAN ME, BASED ON EXPERIENCE, BUT I READ A LOT. I READ VORACIOUSLY. WHEN I WAS NOT GOING TO CLASS, I WAS READING. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) THOSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR KOLTERMAN, CAMPBELL, PANSING BROOKS, NORDQUIST, McCOY, AND OTHERS. SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW, I WASN'T EXPECTING TO TALK ON THIS BILL, BUT I...YOU KNOW, THIS MORNING WE HAD A LESSON AND ACTUALLY WE'VE HAD 72 DAYS OF SENATOR CHAMBERS' SCHOOL OF INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO DATE, TO DATE. THERE'S A FEW DAYS LEFT. AND I DO LIVE IN A RURAL AREA AND I SUPPORT THIS BILL. I SUPPORT THE IDEA OF GIVING \$8 MILLION TO CREIGHTON. AND THERE'S NO SECRET IT'S CREIGHTON. ONE OF THE REASONS I SUPPORT THAT BILL IS BECAUSE THEY'RE ONE OF THE FINEST EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WE HAVE IN THIS STATE, ALONG WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, ALONG WITH KEARNEY, ALONG WITH CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ALONG WITH PERU. YOU KNOW, WE HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN THIS STATE, BOTH PRIVATE AS WELL AS PUBLIC. AND THE REAL ISSUE TO THIS WHOLE SITUATION TO ME IS WHY DO WE DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND AND DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE IF WE CAN OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS AND OUR...THINGS THAT CAN KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HERE IN NEBRASKA? THERE ARE BENEFITS TO ATTENDING HASTINGS COLLEGE THAT ARE MUCH GREATER THAN THEY MIGHT BE FOR A STUDENT THERE THAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, AND VICE VERSA. SO AS I LOOKED AT THIS, THERE'S NO SECRET THAT THIS IS ALL GOING TO GO THROUGH THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. AND I DID A LITTLE BIT OF RESEARCH ON THAT. IN FACT, THAT'S BEEN GOING FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. AND I EVEN HAVE SOME TRANSCRIPTS OF WHERE SENATOR CHAMBERS HAD MADE SOME CHANGES TO TAKE SOME FUNDING AWAY FOR PRIVATE COLLEGES GOING BACK TO 2001. I'VE GOT A THICK BUNDLE OF TRANSCRIPTS AND I'M ENJOYING READING THOSE AND LEARNING FROM THEM. BUT THE POINT IS IN THIS PARTICULAR BILL, WE'RE INCLUDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE GRADUATION OF AT LEAST 75 DENTAL STUDENTS ANNUALLY--75 DENTAL STUDENTS. WE'RE NOT TAKING ANYTHING AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA DENTAL COLLEGE. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO. AS A RESULT OF THAT, SOME OF THEM WILL GET SOME DISCOUNTED TUITION. AND SOME OF THEM, AS PART OF THIS GRANT, WILL HAVE TO STAY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND SOME OF THEM WILL DO THAT BECAUSE THEY WANT TO STAY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND SENATOR SCHILZ WILL TELL YOU, WE DO HAVE A NEED IN RURAL NEBRASKA AND EVEN IN URBAN NEBRASKA FOR DENTISTS. BUT THE OTHER THING ABOUT THIS BILL IS, IF YOU READ PAGE 201 OF THE BUDGET, IT SAYS THE CONTRACT APPLICANT IS ALSO TO SUBMIT AT LEAST FIVE LETTERS OF INTENT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS IN AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENT NEBRASKA COUNTIES TO PROVIDE DISCOUNTED OR CHARITABLE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES. FOLKS, WE DO, WE HAVE A PROBLEM. IN MY COUNTY I GOT AN E-MAIL TWO WEEKS AGO SAYING THAT THE LAST DENTIST THAT WAS OFFERING

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MEDICAID IS NO LONGER GOING TO OFFER IT, MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFITS. THAT'S A PROBLEM. AND THEN THERE'S A PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE ORAL HEALTH TRAINING AT A REDUCED FEE TO STUDENTS IN DENTAL EDUCATION. AND THAT'S GOING TO BE HANDLED BY THE NEBRASKA RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION JUST LIKE WE DO FOR DOCTORS, MEDICAL DOCTORS. BUT I THINK THAT FOR SOME REASON THERE'S A DISTINCTION ABOUT PRIVATE COLLEGES THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE JUST CAN'T GET BY. I HAVE A QUESTION IF SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD YIELD. I KNOW I'M TREADING INTO... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: ...TREACHEROUS TERRITORY BUT I HAVE A QUESTION FOR SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. YES, I WILL YIELD. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'VE... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: ...MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT YOU HAVE YOUR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM CREIGHTON. IS THAT ACCURATE? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S TRUE. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: WHAT WAS THAT DEGREE IN? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HISTORY. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: IN HISTORY. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: WHAT WAS THE... [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I READ IT AND I MADE IT. [LB657]

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SENATOR KOLTERMAN: YES, AND YOU CONTINUE TO DO SO. (LAUGHTER) WHAT WAS THE BEST LESSON YOU LEARNED AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT CREIGHTON? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT IF YOU WANT TO GET AN EDUCATION ANYWHERE, YOU BETTER RELY ON YOURSELF AND MAKE GOOD USE OF THE LIBRARY. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: ALL RIGHT. THAT'S GOOD ADVICE TO ANYBODY. NOW WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR LAW DEGREE? I KNOW YOU'RE AN ATTORNEY, BUT YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN THE BAR. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES, THAT'S CORRECT. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: SO YOU GOT THAT AT CREIGHTON AS WELL? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES, I GOT THAT FROM CREIGHTON. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: HOW HAS THAT PREPARED YOU TO WORK HERE? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SAY IT AGAIN? [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: HOW HAS THAT PREPARED YOU TO WORK IN THIS BODY? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WELL, IT LET ME KNOW THAT PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT THEIR INSTITUTION AS BEING A CERTAIN WAY DON'T PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH. AND WHEN TIME COMES TO PUT IT INTO ACTION, IF YOU'RE SOMEBODY... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...OF MY COMPLEXION, IT DOESN'T WORK FOR YOU. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU. [LB657]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: SAME AS HERE. (LAUGH) [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: I'LL ASK AGAIN LATER. THANK YOU. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, THIS AFTERNOON I'M GOING TO USE WHAT I BELIEVE SENATOR CHAMBERS AND SENATOR SCHUMACHER CALLED MAYBE A TEACHING MOMENT. SO I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOME BACKGROUND HERE ON SOME DATA THAT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU. A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, THE LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHED THE RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION. AND THE COMMISSION, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, CONFIRMED BY THE LEGISLATURE, THEIR JOB IS TO IDENTIFY SHORTAGE AREAS IN HEALTH AND NOW MENTAL HEALTH. AND THAT PROGRAM IS MEANT TO TRY TO GET PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, NURSES, PHYSICAL THERAPISTS INTO THE RURAL PART OF NEBRASKA. AND WE APPROPRIATE MONEY TO DO THAT. AND, OPEN ADVERTISEMENT, I DO HAVE A BILL ON SOME CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE TO THE RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION. WHEN THIS ISSUE CAME UP, I CONTACTED THE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMISSION WHO ROUTINELY, OBVIOUSLY, SPEAKS TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND I SAID, COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME STATICS ON THE NUMBER OF CREIGHTON STUDENTS THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS PROGRAM. AND THERE'S TWO PROGRAMS. ONE IS A STUDENT APPLICATION FOR LIKE A SCHOLARSHIP, AND ONE IS FOR A LOAN REPAYMENT. SINCE THE YEAR 2000, THE RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION HAS HAD 34 DENTAL STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR THAT STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM. NONE CAME FROM CREIGHTON. SINCE THE YEAR 2000, 28 DENTAL STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM, NONE HAVE COME FROM CREIGHTON. I WAS CONCERNED YESTERDAY WHEN I HEARD THE BRIEFING ON THE BUDGET AND WHEN WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT HOW SOME OF THE MONEY MIGHT BE USED HERE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS. I CANNOT SPEAK AND I'M SURE THAT CREIGHTON DOES GREAT THINGS INSIDE THE CITY OF OMAHA, BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT FROM OUR MAJOR PROGRAM THAT TRIES TO GET MEDICAL PEOPLE INTO THE RURAL PART, CREIGHTON STUDENTS HAVE NOT BEEN A PART OF THAT. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRECEDENT WE'RE SETTING. I HAVE INDICATED TO BOTH SENATOR MELLO AND SENATOR NORDQUIST THAT I WOULD GLADLY LISTEN TO THE DISCUSSION ON THIS ASPECT OF THE BUDGET BILLS. BUT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRECEDENT WE'RE SETTING FOR OTHER PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE WHO MAY PROVIDE MEDICAL EDUCATION OF SOME FORM AND WHETHER THEY WOULD THEN COME AND SAY, HELP US, OR

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PROVIDE MONEY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS APART FROM OUR MAJOR PROGRAM.
THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SPEAK TO A COUPLE OF THINGS. I KNOW THAT THIS WAS BROUGHT WITH GOOD INTENTIONS. SENATOR BOLZ MENTIONED THE CREIGHTON CASE. THAT'S CREIGHTON V. SMITH. I GOT THE SAME MEMO FROM THE CREIGHTON LOBBYIST THAT THEY ALL DID AND PART OF THAT IS TRUE. BUT THE CREIGHTON CASE WAS BASED ONLY CERTAIN STATUTES THAT AUTHORIZE CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS. YES, WE DO HAVE CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS. BUT THE REASON I PASSED OUT TO YOU 81-640.01, WHICH TALKS ABOUT CANCER RESEARCH, IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT THOSE STATUTES STILL EXIST TO ALLOW CANCER RESEARCH GRANTS AND A PORTION OF THE LANGUAGE FROM THESE BILLS WAS TAKEN FROM THIS EXACT STATUTE. IN FACT, THE ENTIRE DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED DENTAL PROGRAM IS PATTERNED AFTER THE CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM DISCUSSED IN THE CREIGHTON CASE. HOWEVER, PLEASE LISTEN, THOSE STATUTES PROVIDE THAT A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS ARE REQUIRED TO BE GRANTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA EPPLEY INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN CANCER. THEY DIDN'T SAY, YES, YOU CAN. YES, THERE IS A NEED FOR CANCER (SIC) AND WE'RE GOING TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO ALLOW BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE--PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, NOT JUST PRIVATE. THE STATUTE PROVIDES A LEGISLATIVE DETERMINATION THAT DIVERSITY OF RESEARCH IS DESIRABLE. SO THE OTHER NEBRASKA COLLEGES OF MEDICINE, PRIVATE OR PUBLIC, COULD ALSO APPLY FOR THE GRANTS. I HAVE TALKED TO CREIGHTON'S LOBBYISTS. I SAID, I WILL STAND DOWN IF YOU WANT TO INCLUDE NEBRASKA TO BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR THOSE DENTAL GRANTS. IF WE'RE ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS THE STATE IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE STATE AND THEY'RE NOT BEING AREAS THAT ARE COVERED, THEN LET NEBRASKA APPLY FOR THOSE TOO. THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH NEBRASKA PROVIDING THAT AS WELL AS CREIGHTON? WELL, YOU KNOW THEY DID NOT WANT THAT. SO THAT SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO YOU, THAT IT WAS TURNED DOWN WHEN I ASKED THEM ABOUT THAT. SO BASED ON THE FOREGOING, THE BILLS BEFORE US DO NOT PROVIDE OR DIRECT ANY FUNDING TO THE NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY AND, IN FACT, IT EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDES NEBRASKA FROM OBTAINING ANY FUNDING. IT APPEARS, THEREFORE, THAT THE ARGUMENT COULD BE MADE THAT THESE BILLS CONSTITUTE SPECIAL LEGISLATION. SPECIAL LEGISLATION IS NOT CONSTITUTIONAL. AND I THINK

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MORE ANALYSIS NEEDS TO BE TAKEN. BUT THIS IS A LEGITIMATE ARGUMENT. THE CREIGHTON CASE IS LIMITED IN SCOPE, THE CASE THAT ALL THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IS COMING FORWARD WITH. YES, THEY WERE HANDED THAT BY THE LOBBYISTS. AND, YES, PART OF THE CASE SAID THAT THE STATE CAN CONTRACT WITH PRIVATE COLLEGES. THAT IS TRUE. I'M NOT ARGUING THAT. BUT IT'S DISTINGUISHABLE BECAUSE THESE BILLS PROPOSE THAT THE DENTAL PROGRAM BE EXCLUSIVELY GIVEN AND NARROWED FOR DENTAL PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIVATE LEGISLATION. AND I BELIEVE THAT MAKES IT LEGALLY SUSPECT. IT MAKES IT SPECIAL LEGISLATION. AND IN ANY EVENT, IT'S BAD POLICY. AT A MINIMUM, THE NU DENTAL COLLEGE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ANY FUNDING DIRECTED TO THIS PROGRAM. IF THOSE NEEDS ARE OUT THERE, THEN WHY NOT NEBRASKA? THAT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO ME AND, AGAIN, I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT WE ARE ONLY HEARING ONE SIDE OF THE ISSUE. WE'RE ONLY HEARING ONE SIDE. APPROPRIATIONS EVIDENTLY IS ONLY HEARING ONE SIDE OF THE ISSUE. WE HAD A SIMILAR BILL IN EDUCATION COMMITTEE, LB232, AND THAT WAS TO SET UP A FUND FOR ONLY PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS. THEY WEREN'T GOING TO FUND IT. [LB657 LB232]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: WELL, NOW I BELIEVE THAT THIS MONEY WAS GOING TO FUND THAT. BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY DIRECTION. APPROPRIATIONS WAS GOING TO FUND THAT SPECIAL FUND THAT WAS ONLY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS. THEN, AGAIN, IF YOU LOOK YOUR...THE LAW THAT I PASSED OUT TO YOU THAT SAYS THAT...I'VE LOST THE STATUTE. ANYWAY, THE STATUTE, ARTICLE VII, SECTION 7, ARTICLE XI SAYS THAT THERE SHALL BE NO...DO YOU HAVE MY...THE THING? YEAH, THAT'S IT. THANK YOU. ARTICLE VII, SECTION 11, APPROPRIATION OF STATE FUNDS. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION IN THE CONSTITUTION, APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS SHALL NOT BE MADE TO ANY SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION OF LEARNING NOT OWNED OR EXCLUSIVELY CONTROLLED BY THE STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF, PROVIDED THAT THE LEGISLATURE MAY PROVIDE THAT THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY CONTRACT WITH THE INSTITUTIONS NOT WHOLLY OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION TO PROVIDE FOR EDUCATION OR OTHER SERVICES. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

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SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THOSE IN THE QUEUE: SENATOR NORDQUIST, McCOY, GROENE, SCHNOOR, STINNER, AND OTHERS. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. YOU KNOW, I WANT TO...I'M GOING TO SPEAK A SECOND ABOUT THE CREIGHTON HOSPITAL, BUT I'M JUST DISAPPOINTED WHEN A COLLEAGUE WILL STAND UP AND IMPUGN YOUR INTEGRITY AND SAY THAT YOU WERE HANDED THIS AND YOU'RE BEING SHOVELED INFORMATION AND YOU DON'T TAKE IT UPON YOURSELF TO LOOK FOR IT. I THINK ALL OF US IN HERE ARE ABLE TO DO OUR OWN RESEARCH AND DO OUR OWN WORK ON THINGS, AND THAT IS DISAPPOINTING. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT CREIGHTON SHUTTING DOWN THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE GET FACTS ON THE RECORD HERE. CREIGHTON HASN'T OPERATED A HOSPITAL IN SEVERAL DECADES. I KNOW THIS BECAUSE FROM 2011 TO 2012 I WAS ON THE BOARD OF CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE HOSPITAL, WHICH WAS OWNED AND OPERATED BY A PRIVATE ENTITY, TENET HEALTH CARE OUT OF TEXAS. THEY HAD A LOCAL GOVERNING BOARD OF WHICH I WAS A MEMBER FOR A YEAR. CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY DID NOT RUN THE HOSPITAL. THEN TENET SOLD THE HOSPITAL IN THE SUMMER OF 2012 OF WHICH I WAS NO LONGER ON THE BOARD THEN BECAUSE THEY SOLD THE HOSPITAL TO ALEGENT. ALEGENT WAS A COMBINATION OF CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES BASED OUT OF DENVER--AND SENATOR GLOOR KNOWS CHI WELL, THEY RAN SEVERAL OTHER HOSPITALS IN THE STATE--AND IMMANUEL, WHICH IS A LUTHERAN ORGANIZATION. WELL, IMMANUEL PULLED OUT OF ALEGENT, SO ESSENTIALLY THE HOSPITAL WAS THEN LEFT SOLELY IN POSSESSION OF CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES, CHI. THEY ARE THE ENTITY THAT OPERATED THE HOSPITAL AND HAS CHOSEN TO MOVE DOWN A PATH TO SHUT DOWN THE HOSPITAL, NOT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY. SO WHILE, YES, CATHOLICS I GUESS DO RUN BOTH INSTITUTIONS, YOU CAN SAY CATHOLICS SHUT DOWN THE HOSPITAL, BUT THEY ARE TWO VERY SEPARATE ENTITIES WITH TWO VERY SEPARATE MISSIONS AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THAT IS ON THE RECORD. I DO THINK THAT THE INSTITUTION THAT THEY ARE CREATING ON THE CORNER OF 24th AND CUMING IS A NET POSITIVE. IT'S ACTUALLY RIGHT ON THE BORDER OF MY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, SO IT'LL SERVE A LOT OF MY CONSTITUENTS. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, HEALTHCARE IN GENERAL IS MOVING AWAY FROM LARGE HOSPITAL INSTITUTIONS, AND STUDIES SHOW OMAHA IS A LITTLE BIT "OVERHOSPITALED" WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF HOSPITAL BEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY, MOVING MORE TOWARDS

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PRIMARY CARE, MEDICAL HOMES. AND THE NEW CENTER THAT'S BEING CREATED, YES, WE'LL HAVE AN EMERGENCY ROOM, BUT WE'LL BE A PRIMARY CARE CENTERED ENTITY WITH A FOCUS ON THE ABILITY OF THE EDUCATION INSTITUTION AT CREIGHTON TO USE THAT TO EDUCATE DOCTORS IN THE WAY THAT HEALTHCARE IS BEING DELIVERED TODAY. HOSPITAL HEALTHCARE IS NOT THE FOCUS NECESSARILY OF HEALTHCARE TODAY. MEDICAL EDUCATION IS MOVING TOWARDS MORE PREVENTATIVE, PRIMARY CARE DELIVERY, MEDICAL HOME, TEAM-BASED APPROACH. THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO BE BUILT ON THE CORNER OF 24th AND CUMING. YOU KNOW, THIS COMES DOWN TO ME FOR THE PERSONAL ASPECT OF PEOPLE GETTING CARE. I DIDN'T SPEND SIX YEARS ON THE BOARD AT ONEWORLD FOR PEOPLE NOT TO BE ABLE TO GET HEALTHCARE. I SAW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DENTAL STUDENTS COMING THROUGH. AND WE CAN...YES, I'VE BEEN A HUGE PROPONENTS OF EXPANDING MEDICAID. BUT THE HEALTHCARE WORK FORCE THAT WE NEED TO SERVE EVERYBODY DOES NOT GROW ON TREES. IT TAKES INVESTMENT. IT TAKES PUBLIC INVESTMENT AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO WITH THIS EFFORT, IS TO LEVERAGE THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF OUR ASPECTS OF THE HEALTHCARE WORK FORCE IS THERE TO SERVE THE CITIZENS OF NEBRASKA. AND WE DID HEAR PEOPLE COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, CREIGHTON STUDENTS WHO HAVE GONE TO RURAL NEBRASKA TO SERVE... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ONE MINUTE? IS THAT RIGHT? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU. WE HAD A CONSTITUENT OF SENATOR DAVIS, FROM SENATOR DAVIS' DISTRICT, A CREIGHTON STUDENT WHO WENT OUT THERE, BOUGHT A DENTAL CLINIC THAT WAS GOING...ABOUT TO CLOSE BECAUSE THE DENTIST WAS RETIRING, RECRUITED ANOTHER CREIGHTON STUDENT OUT THERE AND IS NOW OPERATING OUT OF I THINK TWO OR THREE COMMUNITIES IN SENATOR DAVIS' DISTRICT. BUT SENATOR WATERMEIER'S POINT WAS RIGHT ON. WE HAVE THIS STATEWIDE NEED, AND IF WE AREN'T PRODUCING THE WORK FORCE IN THE OMAHA METRO AREA TO TAKE CARE OF THE OMAHA METRO NEED, THEN THE REST OF THE STATE ISN'T GOING TO GET THE REST OF THE WORK FORCE EITHER, SO...BECAUSE OMAHA WOULD DRAW THAT WORK FORCE IN. SO IT'S CRITICAL WE HAVE STRONG INSTITUTIONS TURNING OUT THE

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WORK FORCE WE NEED. AND CREIGHTON IS UNIQUE IN THAT ITS CLINIC IS THE FOCUS OF ITS EDUCATION. IT SERVES, 11,000 NOW. IT'LL SERVE MORE THAN THAT WITH \$8 MILLION OF REDUCED AND FREE CARE BEING PROVIDED TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO OTHER ACCESS TO IT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR McCOY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I'LL GIVE SENATOR MELLO A MOMENT TO WRAP UP HIS PHONE CONVERSATION, BUT I DO HAVE A COUPLE QUESTIONS FOR SENATOR MELLO IF HE WOULD YIELD, PLEASE. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, SENATOR. I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS ON THIS ISSUE AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I'M IN COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THIS SITUATION IS AND I'M SURE THERE'S OTHERS. THE UNDERLYING SUBJECT MATTER HERE THAT WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS AFTERNOON, THE FUNDING FOR THE DENTAL SERVICES HERE, IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THIS WAS SENATOR SCHILZ'S LB584 INITIALLY THAT WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB657 LB584]

SENATOR MELLO: THE CONCEPT WAS LB584, CORRECT. [LB657 LB584]

SENATOR McCOY: AND IN LB584, IT TALKED ABOUT THAT ONLY COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES THAT GRADUATED 100 DENTAL STUDENTS A YEAR, OR ANNUALLY, I SHOULD SAY, WOULD BE ELIGIBLE. BUT NOW WE'RE TALKING ABOUT 75 STUDENTS. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB657 LB584]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT. BUT ALSO THE UNDERLYING BILL, LB548 (SIC--LB584) ALSO WAS STRUCTURED SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT IN RESPECTS

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TO A GRANT PROGRAM IN COMPARISON TO A CONTRACT-FOR-SERVICES APPROPRIATION. [LB657 LB584]

SENATOR McCOY: I THINK FOR THE RECORD YOU MEAN THE UNDERLYING LEGISLATION LB584, NOT LB548. [LB657 LB584]

SENATOR MELLO: LB584 I MEANT, THE GREEN COPY OF LB584. I'M SORRY. [LB657 LB584]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU. I JUST WANT TO CLARIFY THAT FOR THE RECORD. SO CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO ME WHY THAT WAS CHANGED FROM 100 STUDENTS TO 75 ANNUALLY? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I THINK IT WAS IN REGARDS TO CONVERSATIONS THAT SENATOR SCHILZ'S OFFICE HAD WITH THE SUPPORTERS OF THE UNDERLYING BILL IN REGARDS TO REFINING THE CRITERIA WHICH, AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S CRITERIA THAT WAS ALSO ADDED TO WHAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAD INCLUDED THAT WAS NOT PART OF SENATOR SCHILZ'S GREEN COPY VERSION OF THE BILL. SO THAT MAY BE BEST LEFT IN REGARDS TO ANSWERING SENATOR SCHILZ OF WHY, THROUGH THE CONVERSATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SUPPORTERS OF THE BILL, WHY THE DECISION WAS MADE TO DROP FROM 100 TO 75. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: AND TO BE CLEAR, WE'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT ENTITIES IN THE STATE THAT GRADUATE OR, I SHOULD SAY, THAT HAVE DENTAL GRADUATES. THAT WOULD BE THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AND CREIGHTON. CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA WHICH IS LOCATED IN LINCOLN AND CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY THAT'S LOCATED IN OMAHA. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: CORRECT. I APPRECIATE THAT CLARIFICATION. AND DO YOU KNOW, SENATOR, HOW MANY STUDENTS THEY GRADUATE, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT LINCOLN, ANNUALLY FROM THEIR DENTAL PROGRAM? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I DO NOT, SENATOR McCOY. [LB657]

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SENATOR McCOY: OKAY. WELL, I WILL ENDEAVOR TO FIND OUT THE ANSWER TO WHAT THAT QUESTION IS. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME VERY SIMPLY THAT THESE FUNDS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO BOTH PROGRAMS THAT OFFER DENTAL EDUCATION IN THE STATE. IF WHAT WE'RE AFTER...AND I THINK IT'S A LAUDABLE GOAL TO HAVE DENTAL COVERAGE IN UNDERSERVED AND NONSERVED AREAS OF OUR STATE, THEN IT WOULD SEEM TO ME, WE WOULD WANT TO TAKE THE FULL BENEFIT OF ANY DENTAL PROGRAM IN THE STATE, NOT JUST...EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT WRITTEN WITH SAYING SPECIFICALLY CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, THAT IS WHAT IT IS. I WOULD THINK THAT THIS SHOULD BE WRITTEN IN SUCH A WAY AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE...OR LET ME REPHRASE THAT. I WOULD THINK THAT IT WOULD BE COMMON SENSE TO REWRITE THIS VIA AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR BOTH DENTAL PROGRAMS, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT LINCOLN AND CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, TO BE ABLE TO ACCESS THESE FUNDS BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AFTER. WE KNOW OUR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IS 500 MILES WIDE, GOES ACROSS OUR STATE. CREIGHTON HAS A LARGE REACH AS WELL. WHY NOT MAKE SURE THESE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO BOTH? BECAUSE, MEMBERS, AS WE ALL KNOW, THERE ARE TAXPAYERS FROM THE ENTIRE STATE. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT USING,... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: ...TAX DOLLARS FROM ALL 1.8 MILLION NEBRASKANS, NOT JUST THOSE WHO MAY HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT USING TAX DOLLARS, WE SHOULD HAVE THEM APPLY ACROSS THE STATE AND BE ABLE TO BE USED BY BOTH ENTITIES THAT GRADUATE THOSE WITH A GOOD DENTAL EDUCATION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THOSE IN THE QUEUE ARE SENATORS GROENE, SCHNOOR, STINNER, MELLO, BOLZ, AND TEN OTHERS. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'VE GOT QUESTIONS ON THIS AND MAYBE SENATOR MELLO COULD HELP ME WITH IT, ANSWER A QUESTION OR TWO. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: I'M CONCERNED. WHY DID THIS BILL GO DIRECTLY TO APPROPRIATIONS? IT SEEMS TO HAVE ELEMENTS OF HHS WITH UNDERSERVED DENTAL CARE. I'M ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. AND WE WERE PRESENTED WITH BILLS FOR AID THROUGH SENATOR KOLTERMAN'S AND SENATOR NORDQUIST'S BILL ON GRANT FUNDING FOR PRIVATE COLLEGES. I KNOW UNL GOES UNDER THE PURVIEW DIRECTLY TO APPROPRIATIONS, BUT WHY WOULD THIS BILL GO DIRECTLY TO YOU? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR GROENE, IF YOU LOOK AT THE ORIGINAL GREEN COPY OF SENATOR SCHILZ LB584, THE GREEN COPY OF THE VERSION OF THE BILL APPROPRIATED MONEY FROM THE CASH RESERVE TO THE COORDINATING COMMISSION TO DISTRIBUTE THROUGH A COMPETITIVE GRANT PROCESS. NINETY-NINE POINT NINE PERCENT OF THE TIME I'VE BEEN IN THE LEGISLATURE, BILLS THAT INVOKE OR APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE CASH RESERVE UNLESS...AND THE ONLY INSTANCE I'VE SEEN THIS OCCUR WAS WHEN IT WAS AN APPROPRIATIONS BILL OR AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE CASH RESERVE WAS INSERTED WITHIN A GREATER REVENUE COMMITTEE BILL OR GREATER TAXATION BILL. OTHERWISE EVERY BILL THAT TRIES TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE CASH RESERVE GETS SENT TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. [LB657 LB584]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. THAT ANSWERED IT. I DIDN'T KNOW THE ANSWER. SO I THANK YOU FOR THAT ANSWER. SENATOR NORDQUIST, WOULD YOU ANSWER A QUESTION? BY YOUR PREVIOUS COMMENTS, IT SEEMS YOU'RE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY. YOU SAT ON SOME OF THEIR BOARDS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE BALANCE IN THEIR FOUNDATION IS? [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: WELL, I SAT ON THE BOARD AGAIN OF CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, WHICH IS NOT OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE UNIVERSITY--SEPARATE ENTITY. BUT SENATOR COOK READ THAT THERE WAS I BELIEVE \$300-AND-SOME MILLION IN UNENCUMBERED BALANCES. BUT THAT IS SOMETHING WE'VE TALKED A LOT ABOUT IN APPROPRIATIONS BECAUSE WE LOOK AT THE UNIVERSITY'S FOUNDATION, SAY, OH, LOOK AT ALL THIS MONEY. WHY ARE WE GIVING THEM MORE MONEY? THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, WHETHER IT'S ENCUMBERED...OR I DON'T KNOW IF ENCUMBERED IS THE RIGHT WORD, BUT A DIRECTED BALANCE FOR LIKE AN ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP OR JUST GENERAL FUNDS IN THEIR ENDOWMENT, THAT IS A CORPUS THAT THEY

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TAKE INTEREST OFF OF EVERY YEAR. SO IF YOU START GRABBING CHUNKS OF MONEY OUT OF THAT, THEN THEIR OPERATING REVENUE THAT THEY GET OFF THE INTEREST OFF THE ENDOWMENT GOES DOWN. THAT'S WHY THE UNIVERSITIES... [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: WELL, THANK YOU, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ...KEEP BUILDING UP THEIR ENDOWMENTS. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. I PERSONALLY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS. I'VE GOT A BROTHER-IN-LAW THAT WENT THROUGH CREIGHTON DENTAL SCHOOL AND I PERSONALLY WENT THROUGH PAROCHIAL SCHOOL AS A KID. BUT I DON'T LIKE CROSSING THOSE LINES. IT'S NOT A GOOD PLACE TO START, NOT A GOOD PLACE TO END. CREIGHTON IS CREIGHTON AND I WANT CREIGHTON TO BE CREIGHTON. I DON'T WANT CREIGHTON TO START NURSING OFF THE...OR EATING OUT OF THE TROUGH THAT WE GIVE TOO MANY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. I DON'T SEE THE NEED RURALLY. YOU KNOW, I AGREE WITH SENATOR SCHILZ. YOU LOOK AT THOSE MAPS, BUT THOSE MAPS ARE MISLEADING ON RURAL AREAS. THERE'S COUNTIES SURROUNDING LINCOLN COUNTY THAT HAVE 300 PEOPLE IN THEM, 500. THERE'S NO WAY ONE DENTIST CAN MAKE A LIVING IN THAT COUNTY. THERE IS NO WAY ONE DOCTOR CAN MAKE A LIVING IN THAT COUNTY. I WAS TALKING TO SENATOR McCOY. WHERE HE GREW UP AND WHERE I GREW UP, WE'D GO 40-50 MILES TO A DENTIST, TO A DOCTOR. THAT'S OUR CULTURE. YOU'LL NEVER GET A DENTIST TO GO TO STAPLETON, NEBRASKA, TO ARTHUR, NEBRASKA. SO THOSE MAPS ARE MISLEADING ABOUT EVEN GROCERY STORES, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH. YOU CAN INTERPRET THEM ANY WAY YOU WANT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: SO I DO NOT KNOW OF A SHORTAGE OF DENTISTS. IS MEDICAID A PROBLEM? YES. DENTISTS HAVE TO MAKE A LIVING AND MEDICAID PAYMENTS AREN'T THERE, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO IMPROVE THAT WITH THIS. AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT SOME OF THE LOCAL DENTISTS GET TOGETHER AND HAVE, AT ONE OF THE COMMUNITY PLACES, HAVE A DENTAL FAIR WHERE THEY DO IT FOR THE POOR. WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN OUT THERE. I JUST DON'T SEE SPENDING \$8 MILLION FOR WHAT, AN EXTRA 30 GRADUATES A YEAR? BECAUSE THEY'RE STILL GOING TO GRADUATE THE 75 OR SO THEY DO ALREADY. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS CAME FROM, BUT \$8 MILLION

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SHOULD GO BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS IN THE FUTURE. WE DON'T NEED TO START BREAKING THAT BARRIER BETWEEN SECULAR AND GOVERNMENT ANY MORE THAN IT ALREADY IS BROKEN. SO THANK YOU FOR THE TIME. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU, SIR. IN HEARING WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON, I GUESS FOR ME, I GUESS IN THE WORDS OF SENATOR CHAMBERS, THIS DOESN'T PASS THE SMELL TEST. SENATOR MELLO SAID YESTERDAY IN THE BRIEFING, AND I'M PARAPHRASING AND IF I HAVE THIS INCORRECT, SENATOR MELLO, PLEASE CORRECT ME. BUT IN GENERAL, WE'RE INDIRECTLY GIVING MONEY TO CREIGHTON. WE CAN'T GIVE IT TO THEM DIRECTLY, SO WE'RE GIVING IT TO THEM INDIRECTLY. THAT'S HOW I UNDERSTOOD THAT. SO THAT'S WHERE THIS...TO ME, THIS DOESN'T PASS THE SMELL TEST. I WOULD LIKE EVERYBODY WHEN YOU GET A CHANCE, GET ON YOUR COMPUTERS AND GOOGLE RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM. DID YOU KNOW THERE IS PROGRAMS OUT THERE ALREADY WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND IT COVERS DENTISTRY? AND I'LL READ THIS FOR THE DENTISTRY PROGRAM. UPON SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF A FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AT WAYNE STATE COLLEGE OR CHADRON STATE COLLEGE, YOU WILL ENTER UNMC'S COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY LOCATED IN LINCOLN. UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF DENTAL SCHOOL, YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY DEGREE. YOU RECEIVE A TUITION WAIVER DURING THE FOUR YEARS AT WAYNE STATE OR CHADRON STATE. THERE'S A PROGRAM OUT THERE ALREADY. LIKE SENATOR PANSING BROOKS POINTED OUT IN WHAT THE CONSTITUTION SAYS, YOU KNOW, IN SECTION 7-11, I THINK, IF I GOT IT RIGHT. WE NEED TO COMPLY WITH THAT. YOU KNOW, WE'VE TALKED A LOT AND I'VE TALKED A LOT ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY HERE. WE NEED TO HOLD OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE. IF THE CONSTITUTION SAYS WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GIVE TO A PRIVATE INSTITUTION, LET'S NOT DO IT. AND LET'S NOT GO IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY. IF WE'RE TAKING THE MONEY OUT OF OUR CASH RESERVES BECAUSE WE HAVE EXCESS AMOUNT, LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS. LET'S NOT IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY GIVE IT TO A PLACE WHERE WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE GIVING IT TO. I DID AN INFORMAL SURVEY HERE OF THE RURAL SENATORS AND ASKED THEM IF THERE WAS A SHORTAGE IN THEIR AREA. AND THE ANSWER WAS NO. AND I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT DODGE COUNTY: SNYDER, POPULATION 300, NO DENTIST; SCRIBNER, POPULATION 857, NO DENTIST; HOOPER, POPULATION 830, YES, THEY HAVE A DENTIST, IN FACT, THAT'S THE ONE I GO TO; FREMONT, POPULATION 26,000, COULDN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY THEY HAVE, IT'S A LOT; DODGE, POPULATION 612, YES; NORTH BEND, 1,177, I BELIEVE THEY HAVE ONE, TOO. BUT THE POINT IS,

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IN MY COUNTY, WHICH IS THE RURAL AREA THAT EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT, THERE ISN'T A SHORTAGE. IF YOU NEED TO GO TO A DENTIST OR DOCTOR, YOU TRAVEL 20 OR 30 MILES BECAUSE THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS. BUT LET'S HOLD OURSELVES...I GUESS WHAT I'M REALLY GETTING AT IS, IS THERE A SHORTAGE? THERE'S TWO THINGS I WANT TO POINT OUT. IS THERE A SHORTAGE? IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DENTISTS THAT ACCEPT MEDICAID, COULD BE BECAUSE THE DENTIST DOESN'T HAVE TO ACCEPT MEDICAID. THEY CAN JUST GET PAID FROM INSURANCE. SO IF WE'RE CATEGORIZING IT THAT WAY AND THIS LIST DOES NOT SEPARATE THAT, THERE COULD BE A SHORTAGE. BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU PUT MORE DENTISTS THROUGH DENTAL SCHOOL DOESN'T MEAN THAT'S GOING TO SOLVE THAT PROBLEM. SO LET'S HOLD OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE AS A SENATE AND LET'S FOLLOW OUR OWN LAWS THAT ARE OUT THERE AND DO THE RIGHT THING. AND IF WE HAVE EXCESS MONEY... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU, SIR. IF WE HAVE EXCESS MONEY, LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO OUR TAXPAYERS. WHEN WE GET TO I THINK IT'S LB622 IS THE OTHER BILL, THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING TO HAVE SOME AMENDMENTS TO DO JUST THAT, TO GIVE IT BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS. AND LIKE I SAY, LET'S REALLY EVALUATE, IS THERE A SHORTAGE? IS IT MEDICAID OR JUST DENTAL CARE, BECAUSE ADDING THESE PROGRAMS ISN'T GOING TO FIX THAT. BUT LET'S LOOK AT ACCOUNTABILITY. SO THAT'S ALL I HAVE. THANK YOU, SIR. [LB657 LB622]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR STINNER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR STINNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, SINCE I STARTED WITH THE LEGISLATURE, I BECAME MORE AND MORE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR DENTAL CARE, ESPECIALLY DENTAL CARE AS IT RELATES TO PEDIATRIC DENTAL CARE. MY STORY REALLY IS ABOUT A GRANDDAUGHTER WHO HAD FIVE CAVITIES AND WE ENDED UP HAVING TO DRIVE HER OVER TO CHEYENNE TO GET THE APPROPRIATE CARE. SCOTTSBLUFF IS A FAIRLY BIG TOWN, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THAT TYPE OF DENTISTRY. ADDITIONALLY, AFTER I STARTED, I GOT A FAIRLY LONG, DRAWN-OUT E-MAIL FROM A DENTIST THAT I KNOW VERY WELL--HE'S ACTUALLY A NEIGHBOR OF MINE--THAT TALKED ABOUT THE CRISIS THAT THEY HAVE WITH MOSTLY PROVIDER RATES. AND THE FACT IS IF YOU'RE ON MEDICAID AND YOU COME IN AND NEED A TOOTH PULLED, YOU MAY HAVE TO GO TO LINCOLN TO GET YOUR TOOTH PULLED. SO THERE IS A NEED. THAT'S WHY WHEN SENATOR COOK CAME

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TO US AND SAID, HEY, WE'D LIKE TO TAKE A MILLION DOLLARS, AND I THINK ACCURATELY, \$1,050,000 ON AN ANNUAL BASIS AND ALLOCATE IT BACK TO THE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTHCARE CENTERS, WHICH I'M VERY MUCH AWARE OF DO A GREAT JOB. IN FACT, I THINK THAT 8,000-9,000 PEOPLE VISIT OURS IN SCOTTSBLUFF. SO THEY UTILIZE IT FAIRLY HEAVILY. THIS MONEY WILL GO TO ATTRACT THE DENTISTS IN TO PROVIDE SOME OF THE DENTAL CARE. BUT IT WAS INTERESTING, TOO, AFTER I FOUND OUT MY GRANDDAUGHTER HAD FIVE CAVITIES, THAT'S WHAT THE AVERAGE IS FOR PEDIATRIC, YOU KNOW, KIDS THAT HAVE THEIR BABY TEETH IN. AND THEY ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO GET THOSE FIXED, OTHERWISE, IT CARRIES OVER LONG TERM. SO THEN THE CREIGHTON SITUATION POPPED UP AND I THOUGHT, AS I LOOKED AT WHAT THE REQUIREMENTS WERE, THIS IS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT REALLY MAKES A LOT OF SENSE TO ME. IT'S GOING TO PROVIDE MORE DENTISTS. IT'S GOING TO PROVIDE AT LEAST 10,000 CASES TO BE WORKED. IT'S GOING TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR IN-STATE AND IT'S GOING TO WORK WITH FIVE DIFFERENT COUNTIES THAT ALSO ARE IN RURAL NEBRASKA. SO IT SEEMED TO HAVE ALL THE ELEMENTS THAT I THOUGHT LOOKED TO BE PRETTY GOOD. NOW, I'VE LISTENED TO THE ARGUMENTS. I DON'T HAVE A LEGAL DEGREE, SO I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ALL OF THE LEGALITIES THAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT. I THINK WE OUGHT TO GET THAT ALL STRAIGHTENED OUT. WE SURE AS HECK DON'T WANT TO PASS SOMETHING THAT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL OR A PROBLEM. SO THAT WAS THE SHORT STATEMENT I WANT TO MAKE. I WANT TO YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR MELLO. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE YIELDED 2:15. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. JUST MORE OF A POINT OF CLARIFICATION, I DON'T WANT TO STAND ON THE FLOOR AND REFUTE EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCURATE OR INACCURATE AT THIS POINT OF OUR DEBATE. BUT I DO WANT TO REMIND THE BODY, THERE IS A BRACKET MOTION IN FRONT OF US, WHICH IF WE DO CHOOSE TO BRACKET THE BILL, I WILL SIMPLY GIVE A MOTION TO SINE DIE THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND WE WILL HAVE TO COME BACK BECAUSE THE ONLY BILL THAT WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO PASS THIS YEAR IS THE BUDGET BILL. SO IN RESPECTS TO ANYONE SUPPORTING THE BRACKET, I KNOW SENATOR CHAMBERS DID THIS SO THAT HE COULD SPEAK TO DRAW ATTENTION TO WHAT WE'RE DOING. I KNOW THAT THERE IS CONVERSATIONS IN REGARD TO SEEING IF THERE'S A WAY TO PROVIDE A COMPROMISE TO ENSURE THAT BOTH DENTAL ENTITIES COULD APPLY FOR THIS FUNDING. I'M GOING TO ALLOW THAT CONVERSATION TO CONTINUE TO HAPPEN WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES. BUT I

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WANTED TO DRAW EVERYONE'S ATTENTION, A BRACKET MOTION, IF PASSED, WOULD NECESSITATE US TO SINE DIE AND THEN HAVE TO HAVE THE SPEAKER OR THE GOVERNOR CALL US BACK INTO SESSION IN ORDER FOR US TO PASS A BUDGET FOR THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM. THUS, I WOULD ASK YOU NOT TO SUPPORT THE BRACKET MOTION. WE CAN CONTINUE TO DEBATE SENATOR CHAMBERS' AMENDMENT THAT WOULD STRIKE THE FUNDING FOR THE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES FUND. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: BUT I'D URGE YOU NOT TO SUPPORT THE BRACKET MOTION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BOLZ, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANTED TO BRIEFLY ADDRESS THE CONCERN ABOUT THE OTHER DENTAL SCHOOLS. WHAT I WILL TELL YOU IS THAT I THINK IF SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE LANGUAGE BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT, WE SHOULD ADDRESS IT. BUT WE HEARD A LOT FROM ALL OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ALL ACROSS THE STATE, AND THIS WAS NOT THEIR PRIORITY. IT IS CREIGHTON'S PRIORITY AND I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE AN OPEN HAND TO THAT. LET ME TELL YOU, THOUGH, WHAT SOME OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE OTHER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ARE BECAUSE, COLLEAGUES, WE HAVE A GREAT BUDGET FOR YOU. WE HAVE A BUDGET THAT LINES UP WITH OUR PRIORITIES AND THAT IS A BUDGET THAT IS MUCH BIGGER THAN THIS ONE ISSUE. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF AT UNMC IS A BIOMEDICAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION WHERE WE COULD TAKE BIOMEDICAL INNOVATIONS, DEVELOP THEM INTO BUSINESS PROPOSALS AND CREATE MANUFACTURING FOR OUR STATE. THAT'S JOBS. THAT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOP. THAT'S WHAT I'M EXCITED ABOUT IN THIS BUDGET AND THAT'S WHAT I THINK WE SHOULD ALL BE THINKING ABOUT IN THIS BUDGET. SENATOR KUEHN DESERVES SOME CREDIT FOR HIS WORK FOR NOT ONLY LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS BUT ALSO THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE, WHICH WOULD PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND BUSINESS. THESE ARE THE KINDS OF THINGS THAT ARE IN YOUR BUDGET, COLLEAGUES, THAT ARE REALLY WORTH DEBATE AND ATTENTION. SOME OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT WE'VE DONE HAVE BEEN PROMOTING THE ACE SCHOLARSHIPS AND PILOT IT ACADEMY IN OUR K-12 INSTITUTIONS TO HELP KIDS MAKE THOSE TRANSITIONS FROM

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HIGH SCHOOL TO HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SO, COLLEAGUES, WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO YOU IS THAT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE NEEDS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THEY GO MUCH MORE BEYOND THIS ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE IN OUR BUDGET. I APPRECIATE THE DIALOGUE AND THE DEBATE, BUT I ALSO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE AND DEBATE ABOUT OTHER ISSUES. AND WITH THAT, I WILL YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR MELLO. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE YIELDED 2:55. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. JUST AS A POINT OF CLARIFICATION, IN SPEAKING WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS, HE WILL ULTIMATELY WITHDRAW THE BRACKET MOTION. IT IS OBVIOUSLY A PRIORITY MOTION THAT MEMBERS CAN USE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THE MIKE AND BE ABLE TO DISCUSS WHAT THEY WANT TO DISCUSS IN A PRIORITY ORDER. I KNOW SENATOR SCHILZ, SENATOR CHAMBERS, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, SENATOR NORDQUIST ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT SOME LANGUAGE CHANGES POSSIBLY TO THE LANGUAGE THAT WE HAD ADOPTED BASED OFF THE ORIGINAL LB584 THAT WOULD OPEN UP THE APPROPRIATION SIMILAR TO WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WITH CANCER FUNDING, APPROPRIATIONS THAT WAS SIMILAR IN NATURE TO ALLOW FOR A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES. IT'S SOMETHING THAT WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO DISCUSS A LITTLE BIT OFF THE MIKE WHILE MEMBERS NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS ON THEIR SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION TO THE APPROPRIATION TO THE COORDINATION COMMISSION FOR THE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES FUND. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657 LB584]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR COOK, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON AGAIN, COLLEAGUES. I'LL CALL THIS EPISODE FIRE SALE. THANKS TO THE PREVIOUS TARGETED INVESTMENTS BY THE LEGISLATURE, THIS ONE AND PREVIOUS LEGISLATURES, FEDERALLY QUALIFIED PUBLIC HEALTH CENTERS--I'LL GO AHEAD AND CALL THEM FQHCs FOR THE REST OF THE CONVERSATION--ARE ESTABLISHED DENTAL HOMES FOR MANY OF THE UNDERSERVED, UNINSURED, MEDICAID PATIENTS THAT WOULD OSTENSIBLY BE SERVED IN THIS PROPOSED FACILITY. THE FQHCs ARE AN EXISTING ESTABLISHED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROVIDING CARE. CONTINUED AND EXPANDED INVESTMENT IN THE EXISTING BRICK-AND-MORTAR HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IS AN IDEA THAT I'D LIKE TO EXPLORE. AND IF IT DOESN'T HAPPEN ON THIS BILL, THIS AMOUNT OF MONEY,

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THIS PROPOSAL IS IN AT LEAST TWO MORE APPROPRIATIONS PROPOSALS. WE CAN STILL TALK ABOUT IT. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, AM831, TO LB661, WHICH COMES DOWN LATER, SEEKS TO STEER THIS MONEY TO SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT WITH SOME PRETTY DIRECT LANGUAGE. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ALSO REQUIRES A FULL AND DETAILED REPORTING, WHICH IS A GOOD THING. SENATOR SCHNOOR TALKED ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY. MEMBERS, THIS LANGUAGE DOES NOTHING TO CONVINC ME THAT THESE TAX DOLLARS ARE NOT BEING USED TO ESSENTIALLY SUBSIDIZE AND EXPAND THE CAMPUS OF CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY. NOW, AN ASIDE HERE, I'VE GOT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING PERSONAL AGAINST A FELLOW JESUIT UNIVERSITY. I'M A GRADUATE OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, ESTABLISHED IN 1789, A LITTLE BIT BEFORE CREIGHTON. SO I'M PROUD OF THE WORK THAT THEY DO, AND OFTENTIMES THEY DO STILL STAY IN LINE WITH THE SERVICE THAT COMES OUT OF THE JESUITICAL TRADITION. BUT THERE'S NOTHING IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSAL, WHETHER IT'S IN LB661 OR HERE, THAT SAYS THAT THAT'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING WITH STATE TAX DOLLARS FROM FAMILIES WHERE IF THEIR STUDENTS WERE INCLINED TO GO TO UNIVERSITY, THEY MAY NOT MEET THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE ENTRANCE STANDARDS. THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD WHAT'S NOT SUBSIDIZED THROUGH STUDENT LOANS OR THE FAMILY'S RESOURCES. SO I DON'T SEE THAT IN THE CURRENT LANGUAGE. I HAVE SOME SINCERE CONCERNS ABOUT THE STATE OF NEBRASKA INVESTING ITS LIMITED RESOURCES, AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT WE HEAR EVERY TIME WE ASK FOR MONEY FOR SOMETHING ELSE, IN BRICK AND MORTAR OR EQUIPMENT FOR AN INSTITUTION WITH A HISTORY, QUITE SIMPLY, OF DIVESTING THEMSELVES OF MISMANAGED RESOURCES. NOW, SENATOR NORDQUIST GAVE YOU THE HISTORY OF WHEN TENET CAME ON BOARD. BUT BEFORE THAT, IT WAS AN ESTABLISHED HOSPITAL. IT WAS CALLED THE CREIGHTON-ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, AND CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY USED IT AS PART OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL OUTLET...AS AN EDUCATIONAL OUTPOST FOR THEIR MEDICAL STUDENTS AND NURSING STUDENTS AND PHARMACY STUDENTS. SO IT'S FINE TO PARSE OUT THE REAL LIVE OWNERSHIP OF THE HOSPITAL OPERATION, AND SENATOR GLOOR HAS TRIED OCCASIONALLY TO EDUCATE ME ON HOW THE DELIVERY AND PAYMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES HAS CHANGED EVEN DURING HIS CAREER IN THAT AREA. BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE, AS SOMEBODY WHO'S LIVED IN NORTH OMAHA MOST OF HER TIME ON THE PLANET, THE HISTORY OF THE CAMPUS BEING REAL INTERESTED FOR A WHILE IN THE UNDERSERVED AND IN THE COMMUNITY ITSELF, PARTICULARLY THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY ON THE NEAR NORTH SIDE, AND THEN NOT SO MUCH, OR MAYBE MORE INTERESTED IN THE DIRT UNDERNEATH THE HOUSES... [LB657 LB661]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR COOK: ...THAN IN THE SERVICE OF THE HUMANS OR ANY STUDENTS THAT MIGHT SERVE THOSE HUMANS. AS SENATOR NORDQUIST SAID, IN 1983 THE BOARD OF CREIGHTON OMAHA REGIONAL HEALTHCARE CONSORTIUM, WHICH WAS THE PARENT BODY OF THEN ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, CONDUCTED A REVIEW, A VIABILITY REVIEW. THE REVIEW FOUND OUT EVEN AT 90 PERCENT OCCUPANCY RATES, THE HOSPITAL WAS NOT FINANCIALLY VIABLE. IN '84, IT WAS SOLD TO AMERICAN MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL FOR \$100 MILLION. THERE ARE NO SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT THIS PROPOSED INVESTMENT WON'T BE MISMANAGED AND SOLD AGAIN. WHEN THE STATE CUTS A CHECK TO A PRIVATE ENTITY, HOW DO WE ENSURE THAT THE INVESTMENT OF OUR LIMITED FUNDS WILL BE USED WISELY, PERPETUALLY, IN PERPETUITY FOR THE INTENDED PURPOSE? HOW DO WE ENSURE THAT OUR INVESTMENT WON'T BE SOLD AT THE NEXT CUMING STREET FIRE SALE? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THOSE IN THE QUEUE ARE SENATORS GLOOR, CHAMBERS, KOLTERMAN, BLOOMFIELD, AND OTHERS. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, MEMBERS. I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH THIS ISSUE AND I...THIS ISSUE BEING THE \$8 MILLION GOING TO A DENTAL SCHOOL OR THE \$8 MILLION GOING SOMEWHERE ELSE. AND AS SENATOR COOK POINTED OUT, WE HAVE HAD SOME GOOD CONVERSATIONS OVER OUR YEARS TOGETHER. I LOVE LISTENING TO SENATOR COOK'S VOICE. BUT WHEN SHE IS AT HER SMOOTHEST, BEST ALTO TONE LIKE SHE IS TODAY, SHE REMINDS ME A LITTLE BIT OF THOSE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS WHERE THE TIGRIS IS PURRING JUST BEFORE IT GOES FOR THE THROAT. AND SO I'M TREADING ON THIN ICE HERE SINCE WE'RE NOT IN ABSOLUTE AGREEMENT ON THIS. BUT WE'RE GOOD ENOUGH FRIENDS TO HAVE HAD A GOOD CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS, WHICH IS WHAT I THINK WE'RE DOING. AND I'M CLAWING THROUGH IN MY OWN WAY ALL OF THE OTHER ISSUES THAT ARE BEING BROUGHT INTO THIS DISCUSSION. AND I FOUND MYSELF GOING BACK TO MY CAREER IN HEALTHCARE IN A COMMUNITY THAT WAS UNDERSERVED BY DENTISTS, AND AN EMERGENCY ROOM THAT FOUND ITSELF

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WITH A LOT OF DENTAL PATIENTS THAT PRESENTED. AND EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT SPECIALISTS, GOD BLESS THEM, WOULD BE CALLED AND WOULD COME IN AND DO THE BEST THEY COULD WHILE THE STAFF CALLED AROUND TO TRY AND FIND SOMEBODY WHO WOULD TAKE WHAT ENDED UP BEING A...NOT ALWAYS CHARITY CASE BUT JUST SOMEBODY WHO WOULD TAKE A NEW PATIENT. WE NEED DENTISTS IN MY COMMUNITY AND ALL ACROSS THE STATE, AS SENATOR SCHILZ POINTED OUT. EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS TO GET SOME DENTISTS WHO WILL SPEND SOME TIME IN MY COMMUNITY IS A LOT OF MONEY. I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE \$8 MILLION ROLLED INTO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS FOR DENTAL STUDENTS THAT WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO SERVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES. BUT THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE IN FRONT OF US. AND I HAVE TO SAY, MY EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST SIX AND A HALF YEARS IN THIS BODY IS IF YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT \$8 MILLION IN DENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD STAND A CHANCE. I JUST DON'T. EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS OR PEDIATRICIANS, I DON'T THINK WE'D BE WILLING TO PUMP THAT MUCH ADDITIONAL MONEY. SO I AM AT THAT OLD PROVERBIAL BIRD IN HAND WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH. EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE SEEM TO BE SUPPORTING THAT WILL BUILD A DENTAL SCHOOL THAT WILL PROVIDE DENTISTS WHO WILL PROVIDE SOME DEGREE OF COVERAGE IN OUTSTATE NEBRASKA, INCLUDING MY COMMUNITY, IS A PRETTY EXPENSIVE TRADE TO MAKE, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NO DENTAL COVERAGE WHATSOEVER. I DO THINK THERE WILL BE A CONCERTED EFFORT AS A RESULT OF THIS DEBATE TO HAVE MORE OF THOSE DENTAL STUDENTS STAY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. SENATOR CAMPBELL'S NUMBERS--CAN'T ARGUE WITH THOSE NUMBERS, I BELIEVE THEM--ARE PRETTY DAMNING AS RELATES TO THIS. BUT EVERYTHING IS CHANGING IN HEALTHCARE. NOTHING IS THE SAME AS IT WAS. IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I GOT OUT OF IT, CANDIDLY. AND SOME OF THOSE CHANGES REQUIRE US TO LOOK AT THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY. THE CREIGHTON YOU KNEW IS GONE. THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MED CENTER THAT YOU KNEW IS GONE, AS IS THE BRYAN AND THE SAINT E'S AND ON DOWN THE LINE. HEALTHCARE HAS CHANGED SO DRAMATICALLY THAT YOUR REFERENCE POINTS TO THE BACK TO WHAT THEY USED TO DO, TO THE NUNS WHO USED TO GO AROUND VISITING PATIENTS, ALL THAT IS GONE. WE ARE IN A VERY TIGHTLY MANAGED, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, PENNY-PINCHING CONSCIOUSNESS, OUTCOMES-ORIENTED SYSTEM OF HEALTHCARE NOW. AND WHETHER YOUR MINISTRY IS CHURCH RELATED OR YOUR MINISTRY IS JUST GETTING PEOPLE WELL--HOPEFULLY THAT'S EVERY HOSPITAL'S MISSION--... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

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SENATOR GLOOR: ...YOU'RE ALL OPERATING PRETTY MUCH THE SAME WAY, MAKING DIFFICULT BUSINESS DECISIONS. OUR DECISION IS \$8 MILLION FOR THIS SCHOOL. DON'T SUPPORT THE BRACKET. I AM STILL LISTENING, BUT I'M CERTAINLY EDGING TOWARDS A BIRD IN THE HAND, TO ME, IS \$8 MILLION TO TRAIN MORE DENTAL STUDENTS WITH SOME OF THEM COMING TO OUTSTATE NEBRASKA. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THIS IS A THORNY ISSUE. I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT I DON'T WANT CREIGHTON TO GET THIS MONEY. THERE IS THE OTHER ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS THE TYPE OF PROGRAM, FORGETTING ALL THE THINGS THAT I'VE SAID, WHICH THE STATE OUGHT TO SPEND PUBLIC MONEY FOR GOING TO A PRIVATE INSTITUTION. IT WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE SECTARIAN. WHEN SENATOR KOLTERMAN WAS TALKING ABOUT SOME MONEY I GOT TAKEN FROM ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS, I'M GOING TO TELL YOU HOW THE LOBBYISTS DID. AND I THINK TIP O'NEILL IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE LOBBYISTS IN THIS BOONDOGGLE. THEY HAD MANAGED TO CREATE A NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIP AND AID PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS. THE PEOPLE WHO WENT TO THESE PRIVATE SCHOOLS, WHETHER PAROCHIAL OR NONSECTARIAN, HAD ACCESS TO EVERY ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS. BUT THEN THERE WAS ONE SET ASIDE AND ONLY THE STUDENTS WHO GO TO THESE NONPRIVATE AND SECTARIAN SCHOOLS COULD GO THERE. THOSE STUDENTS COULD APPLY TO ANY OTHER PROGRAM, BUT WHEN IT CAME TO THIS PARTICULAR FUND, ONLY THE PRIVATE AND SECTARIAN SCHOOLS WOULD GET THE MONEY. AND I MANAGED TO GET THAT KILLED BEFORE I LEFT THE LEGISLATURE. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY PUT IT BACK IN PLACE. BUT THAT'S WHAT THESE WILY PEOPLE DO. AND THE THING ABOUT IT, WHILE THEY TALK SUCH HIGH MORALS WHEN THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THEIR CLASS OFFERINGS, THE WAY THEIR LOBBYISTS ACT IS HIGHLY IMMORAL AND I BELIEVE UNETHICAL. THEY DON'T TELL THE TRUTH. THEY'LL GIVE SOMEBODY WHAT THEY CALL INFORMATION ABOUT A DECISION BY THE SUPREME COURT. AND TO NONLAWYERS, THEY WILL TAKE STUFF THAT THE LOSING SIDE HAD IN THE DISSENT, AS IT'S CALLED, AND GIVE TO THESE SENATORS WHAT THE DISSENTING JUDGE HAS SAID, BUT THEY WON'T GIVE THE ACTUAL OPINION OF THE COURT THAT REPRESENTS THE LAW ON THAT ISSUE. I DON'T TRUST THEM. I DON'T TRUST CREIGHTON. AND DESPITE HOW SENATOR NORDQUIST TRIED TO PRETTIFY THE WHOLE THING, EVERYBODY IN NORTH OMAHA AND OTHER PARTS OF OMAHA SAW THAT HOSPITAL UP ON THE HILL AS CREIGHTON'S HOSPITAL.

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AND AS SENATOR COOK POINTED OUT, IT WAS CALLED CREIGHTON-ST. JOSEPH AND WHATEVER ELSE. THEY EVEN HAD SOMETHING ABOUT BOYS TOWN ACROSS THE TOP OF IT. SO THE APPEARANCE WAS ALLOWED TO STAND THAT THIS WAS CREIGHTON HOSPITAL AND THEY WERE DOING GREAT THINGS FOR THE PUBLIC, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY WAS. AND THEY ACCEPTED THAT AND THEY EXPLOITED IT. AND I GUESS THAT'S WHY THESE DOCTORS WROTE TO ME AND SAID, DON'T LET CREIGHTON GET AWAY WITH MOVING THIS HOSPITAL. SO THE DOCTORS DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT EITHER, I SUPPOSE. BUT ALL OF THESE ARE ISSUES THAT LEGITIMATELY SURFACE IN A DISCUSSION OF THIS KIND. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT PROVIDING PUBLIC EDUCATION. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TAKING MONEY THAT TAXPAYERS PAY INTO THE COFFERS AND GIVING IT OVER TO AN INSTITUTION WHICH WOULD SAY, IF YOU ARE GAY OR YOUR CHILDREN ARE GAY AND THEY WANT A JOB HERE, WE DON'T HAVE TO HIRE THEM AND WE WON'T BECAUSE THAT IS AGAINST OUR RELIGION. BUT YOU TOOK TAXPAYER MONEY, SO THE TAXPAYERS ARE UNDERWRITING DISCRIMINATION. THE CHURCH HAS NOT BEEN SHY ABOUT POINTING OUT THAT THEIR OBJECTION TO PEOPLE WHO ARE GAY DOESN'T JUST APPLY TO THEIR CHURCHES BUT TO THEIR EDUCATION SYSTEM, HOSPITALS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE. THAT'S WHAT THEIR POSITION IS. AND I GUESS AS LONG AS CREIGHTON IS A CATHOLIC SCHOOL, IF THE TOP DOG COMES DOWN AND SAY THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL DO AND YOU WON'T DO IT, THEN YOU'RE OUT OF HERE. THEY CALL IT EXCOMMUNICATION. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO GET CREIGHTON OUT OF THIS AND I'LL GO FOR IT. GIVE IT TO NEBRASKA AND I WILL GO FOR IT. BUT AS LONG AS CREIGHTON IS IN IT AND THEY'VE GOT THE PEOPLE LOBBYING FOR IT WHO ARE LOBBYING FOR IT, I'M VERY SKEPTICAL. THEY DON'T MIND ME SAYING THIS. THAT'S WHAT THEY GET PAID FOR. THEY'LL GET MORE MONEY NOW BECAUSE THEY'LL SAY ERNIE TOOK OUT AFTER US, THAT SHOULD BE WORTH ABOUT \$6,000 MORE FOR THIS SESSION. THEY KNOW HOW TO PARLAY ANYTHING TO THEIR BENEFIT. BUT WHAT THE SENATORS HERE HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND IS THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO YOUR COLLEAGUES, WELL, TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS, WHY YOU VOTED TO MAKE \$8 MILLION AVAILABLE TO CREIGHTON TO EXPAND THEIR DENTAL FACILITIES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANTED TO GET BACK TO WHERE I WAS WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS EARLIER, BUT I HAVE A COUPLE OF THINGS I WANTED TO SAY FIRST. I STILL WANT TO GO BACK TO THE IDEA THAT THERE'S 75 STUDENTS THAT WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HERE AND THAT COULD GO INTO THE LABOR FORCE IN NEBRASKA OR THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. AND I THINK THAT'S IMPORTANT. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT WE...I THINK I BELIEVE, IF I WAS LISTENING TO SENATOR SCHNOOR CORRECTLY, THERE'S ALREADY A PROGRAM IN PLACE LIKE THAT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA DENTAL COLLEGE AS WELL. WOULD THAT BE ACCURATE? WOULD SENATOR SCHNOOR YIELD TO THAT QUESTION? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHNOOR, WILL YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB657]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: I WILL. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: YOU DID A LITTLE BIT OF RESEARCH THERE WITH YOUR GADGET. WHAT DID THAT TELL US? [LB657]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: COULD YOU ASK ME THE QUESTION AGAIN? I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION. I APOLOGIZE. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: DOES THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA DENTAL COLLEGE HAVE AN OUTREACH PROGRAM ALREADY IN PLACE? [LB657]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THEY DO. IT IS CALLED--I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY--THE RURAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: YEAH, I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE CASE. THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. SO MY POINT IS, WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE, FOLKS, IS WE'RE ADDING ADDITIONAL 75 STUDENTS INTO A PROGRAM THAT CAN HELP STRENGTHEN (SIC) THE SHORTAGE THAT DOES EXIST IN NEBRASKA. THE OTHER THING THAT I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND IS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT \$8 MILLION OF STATE MONIES. IN RETURN, CREIGHTON IS GOING TO BUILD AN \$85 MILLION FACILITY--\$85 MILLION. THEY MORE THAN OFFSET THEIR FOUR-TO-ONE RATIO THAT'S REQUIRED IN THE CONTRACT ACCORDING TO PAGE 201 IN THE BUDGET BRIEFING. SO I THINK THOSE ARE IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER. AND, AGAIN, I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE FACT THAT WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING

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ABOUT CREIGHTON HERE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT EDUCATION. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR STATE. SHOULDN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EDUCATION. THIS STATE THRIVES ON ALL KINDS OF EDUCATION, WHETHER IT'S CREIGHTON, WHETHER IT'S UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-KEARNEY, WHEREVER IT'S AT, OR OUR TRADE SCHOOLS OR COMMUNITY COLLEGES. WE'RE BLESSED TO HAVE THE KIND OF EDUCATION WE HAVE. BUT I WAS WONDERING IF SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD YIELD TO ONE MORE QUESTION. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOT TO TEMPTATION, BUT TO SENATOR KOLTERMAN I WILL. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. AT LEAST YOU DIDN'T CALL ME TEMPTATION. THE QUESTION IS, WE ESTABLISHED EARLIER THAT YOU HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND YOU HAVE A JURIS DOCTORATE DEGREE FROM CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOT A DOCTOR'S. THEY CALL IT A J.D., JURIS DOCTORATE, BUT IT'S NOT A DOCTORATE. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: J.D., JURIS DOCTORATE. ALL RIGHT. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: SO YOU GOT A LAW DEGREE, RIGHT? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES, I HAVE A LAW DEGREE. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU. SO I JUST HAVE A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING WHY. THAT INSTITUTION HAS SERVED YOU SO WELL AND IT HAS EDUCATED YOU AND IT HAS GIVEN YOU THE ABILITY TO COME HERE TO LINCOLN AND SERVE 40 YEARS AND TEACH US ALL HOW TO WORK IN THE UNICAMERAL. WHY WOULD YOU WANT OR WHY WOULD YOU EVEN THINK OF DEPRIVING 75 STUDENTS THAT SAME TYPE OF OPPORTUNITY? [LB657]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: IS YOUR QUESTION CENTERED AROUND HOW WELL THEY EDUCATED ME? HERE'S WHAT... [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: NO, MY QUESTION IS, WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DENY THAT OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU HAD TO 75 OTHER STUDENTS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: LET ME TELL A LITTLE BIT THAT MIGHT WOULD HAVE SOUND BRAGGADOCIOS IF IT HADN'T BEEN BROUGHT UP. I TOOK EVERY SPANISH CLASS THEY HAD AT CREIGHTON. WE NEVER SPOKE IT. THE TEACHER WAS PAUL SORRENTINO. WHENEVER HE WAS LATE, HE'D ASKED ME WOULD I TAKE OVER THE CLASS AND TEACH IT... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...BECAUSE I KNEW SPANISH GRAMMAR. I COULD WRITE ANYTHING IN SPANISH. I COULD READ IT. BUT I COULDN'T SPEAK IT. WHEN I WAS IN HISTORY CLASS, I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THERE, SO I DIDN'T ATTEND THAT. BUT IN ENGLISH, HE'D LET ME SLEEP IN CLASS. THEN WHEN A QUESTION CAME UP THAT COULDN'T BE ANSWERED, HE'D SAY, GO WAKE UP MR. CHAMBERS. AND THEY'D WAKE ME UP AND I KNEW THE ANSWER. AND WHEN I WAS IN LAW SCHOOL, THERE WERE QUESTIONS THAT NOBODY COULD ANSWER AND I'D ANSWER. SO IT REACHED THE POINT WHERE IF I WOULD RAISE MY HAND, I WOULDN'T BE CALLED ON. I WAS SMART BY THEIR STANDARDS, BUT THEIR STANDARDS OBVIOUSLY WERE NOT VERY HIGH. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: SO MY QUESTION IS STILL, WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO DEPRIVE 75 STUDENTS A YEAR THE OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU HAD? [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BECAUSE AS AN EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, I THOUGHT IT WAS LACKING A GREAT DEAL BECAUSE I GRADUATED FROM TECH HIGH, WHICH WAS A TECHNICAL SCHOOL, AND I DID SO WELL AT THAT SUPPOSEDLY HIGH ACADEMIC SCHOOL THAT I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO ATTEND CLASSES AND DID BETTER THAN THE OTHER STUDENTS. SO I DIDN'T SEE IT AS THAT GOOD AN ACADEMIC SCHOOL. BUT IT WAS CLOSER THAN UNO BECAUSE I COULD WALK FROM WHERE... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I LIVED TO CREIGHTON. [LB657]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU. WE'RE AT LEAST GETTING TO THE BOTTOM.
[LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. A FEW MINUTES AGO I GOT FROM SENATOR SCHILZ A CHART THAT SHOWED WHERE WE'RE SHORT ALL THESE DENTISTS OR DENTAL PEOPLE IN RURAL NEBRASKA. AND AS WITH MOST OF THESE TYPES OF CHARTS, THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. IT SAYS DAKOTA COUNTY IS SHORT DENTISTS. YEP, THEY PROBABLY ARE. JUST ACROSS THE RIVER TWO MILES AWAY SETS SIOUX CITY, IOWA. I THINK YOU COULD PROBABLY FIND ONE OVER THERE. IT SAYS WAYNE COUNTY IS SHORT. PROBABLY SO. WE'VE GOT SOME REAL GOOD DENTISTS THERE IN WAYNE. I LIVE 12 MILES FROM NORFOLK. I'VE NEVER HAD TROUBLE FINDING A DENTIST, BUT IT SHOWS UP BIG TIME ON THIS CHART. THE IDEA THAT YOU MAY BE 5, 10, 20, 50 MILES FROM A DENTAL OPERATIVE DOES NOT MEAN YOU'RE SHORT. I'VE MOVED 200 MILES TO GET A JOB. YOU KNOW, IF I NEED TO FIND SOMEBODY TO WORK ON MY TEETH I'M NOT ABOVE DRIVING 50-60 MILES TO DO THAT. THE IDEA THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE A DENTAL PROFESSIONAL IN EVERYBODY'S BACKYARD IS UNATTAINABLE. AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AIMING FOR HERE. I DON'T THINK IT IS ATTAINABLE. AND I THINK THE IDEA OF GIVING \$8 MILLION TO A PRIVATE INSTITUTION IS PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA EITHER. AND I'D YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR KRIST. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE YIELDED 2:50. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR YIELD, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. IT'S VERY KIND OF YOU. I'D JUST LIKE TO MAKE A COUPLE OF POINTS GENERICALLY, NOT NECESSARILY FOR OR AGAINST WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE. I DON'T THINK THERE'S A...AND I THINK THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO LISTEN TO. I DON'T THINK THE COMPROMISE THAT'S BEING WORKED ON IS EVEN IN LINE WITH THE BUDGETARY PROCESS. THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA HAS NOT ASKED FOR THIS MONEY. THEY'VE NOT ASKED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. IT WAS NOT PART OF THEIR BUDGET REQUEST. SO AT HAND IS \$8 MILLION IN THE EXISTING PROGRAM. I WAS TAUGHT A LONG TIME AGO THAT IF YOU THINK IT'S A BAD BILL YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO MAKE IT BETTER ON THE FLOOR. SO LET'S FOCUS ON WHAT'S THERE, AND NO MATTER

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HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT, IT'S \$8 MILLION, IT'S THAT PROGRAM. I'M TOLD THAT THE FORECASTING BOARD CAME BACK AND IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT THEY THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE. I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST THAT THAT MIGHT BE THE FIRST \$8 MILLION TO MAKE US BETTER AGAIN, BUT I GUESS THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN. BUT WHAT I'D LIKE TO EMPHASIZE IS THE SUBJECT MATTER AT HAND, WHICH CAN BE FIXED BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT BY OUR APPROPRIATIONS FOLKS, IS \$8 MILLION. IT IS A PROGRAM THAT WAS REQUESTED BY CREIGHTON. AND IF THAT'S WHAT YOU CHOOSE NOT TO FUND, THEN LET'S NOT TRY TO BRING EVERYBODY ELSE INTO THE PICTURE. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR DAVIS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'VE JUST GOT A FEW POINTS THAT I THINK NEED TO BE MADE. AND REALLY, THIS IS ADDRESSED MORE AT MY RURAL COMPATRIOTS WHO SEEM TO THINK THERE ISN'T A SHORTAGE OR A PROBLEM OUT THERE. I REPRESENT THE MOST RURAL DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM OUT THERE, AND IT'S A BIG ONE. SO I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH MY RETIRED DENTIST FRIEND IN ALLIANCE WHO PURCHASED MY UNCLE'S DENTAL PRACTICE IN 1976. SO FROM 1976 UNTIL MY UNCLE...MY FRIEND SOLD HIS DENTAL PRACTICE 35 YEARS LATER, THERE WAS NO DENTAL PRACTICE IN ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA, THAT CHANGED HANDS. THE ONES THAT WENT OUT OF BUSINESS SIMPLY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS AND THOSE GUYS WENT AWAY. SO WHEN MY FRIEND CAME TO ALLIANCE, THERE WERE 11 DENTISTS THERE. THIS IS A TOWN OF 7,500 PEOPLE AT THE TIME, 11 DENTISTS THERE. OVER THE COURSE OF THAT 35 YEARS, IT DWINDLED DOWN TO A POINT WHERE THERE WERE THREE AND NOW TODAY THERE ARE FIVE. OF THOSE FIVE, THREE OF THEM ARE OVER 65 YEARS OLD. ALLIANCE IS THE PLACE THAT I WOULD GO TO THE DENTIST, 75 MILES FROM MY HOUSE. I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE DRIVE. BUT RURAL IS NOT NORTH PLATTE. IT'S NOT SCOTTSBLUFF. RURAL IS SOMETHING ELSE. RURAL IS PLACES LIKE ALLIANCE, CHADRON, VALENTINE, GORDON, AINSWORTH, THE COMMUNITIES THAT I REPRESENT. WE NEED THESE DENTISTS IN THESE COMMUNITIES. WE'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME WAY TO GET THEM THERE. IF THIS IS ONE TOOL, FINE. CREIGHTON HAS TWO THAT ARE OUT IN VALENTINE RIGHT NOW AND ONE OF THOSE HAS A PRACTICE THAT HE'S WORKING ON IN MULLEN, NEBRASKA, POPULATION 800. SO HE GOES DOWN TO MULLEN ONCE EVERY COUPLE WEEKS--GREAT SERVICE FOR A LOT OF THE OLDER PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN RURAL NEBRASKA WHO CAN'T GET ANYWHERE. I HEARD ALL THIS DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW UNFAIR THIS IS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

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YOU KNOW, REMEMBER, FOLKS, IN HERE WE'VE CONTRIBUTED HALF A BILLION DOLLARS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. IT'S NOT CHICKEN FEED. THIS IS A GOOD BILL, IT'S A GOOD IDEA. CREIGHTON IS A GREAT INSTITUTION. WE NEED TO LOOK AFTER IT. IT'S MAKING A HUGE INVESTMENT IN OMAHA. YESTERDAY WE DECIDED WE NEEDED TO GIVE SOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BECAUSE THEY MIGHT MOVE AWAY. WELL, THIS IS THE SAME THING. THIS IS A LITTLE BIT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR OMAHA AND IT'S...ANOTHER THING THAT IT IS, IT'S GOOD FOR RURAL NEBRASKA. SO WITH THAT SAID, I WILL...I'LL SAY IT ONE MORE...A COUPLE MORE THINGS. CHADRON, NEBRASKA, POPULATION AROUND 5,000, HAS THREE DENTISTS; ALLIANCE AGAIN, 9,000 WITH FIVE DENTISTS; GORDON HAS TWO, GORDON AND VALENTINE HAVE TWO APIECE, A LOT OF RESERVATION BUSINESS THAT COMES DOWN THERE FOR THOSE SERVICES. WE NEED HELP. WE NEED TO REPLACE THESE OLDER DENTISTS IN THESE COMMUNITIES. THIS IS ONE WAY TO MAYBE GET THERE AND I STRONGLY SUPPORT IT. WITH THAT, I'LL YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR SCHILZ IF HE WOULD LIKE IT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATORS SCHILZ, YOU'RE YIELDED 2:10. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. AND WE'VE BEEN HAVING SOME DISCUSSIONS HERE AMONGST THE FOLKS THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS. AND I'D LIKE TO THANK SENATOR McCOY AS WELL FOR BRINGING THIS UP, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, SENATOR CHAMBERS, SENATOR MELLO, SENATOR NORDQUIST, AND EVERYBODY ELSE THAT'S TALKED ABOUT THIS. AND I AGREE, WE NEED TO BRING THIS TOGETHER SO THAT ANY OF THE DENTAL SCHOOLS IN THE STATE CAN QUALIFY. SO WE'RE WORKING ON AN AMENDMENT, OR WE WILL BE, TO BRING ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS INTO ALIGNMENT SO THAT ALL OF THE DENTAL SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE COULD QUALIFY FOR THIS. WE WOULD MAINTAIN AND WILL MAINTAIN THE FOUR-TO-ONE MATCH THAT'S THERE. AND IF THERE...AND THIS WILL ALSO BE IN THE AMENDMENT, THAT IF THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE QUALIFIED APPLICANT AND THEY HAVE THE FOUR-TO-ONE MATCH, WE WOULD SPLIT THE MONEY EVENLY BETWEEN THOSE ENTITIES. IF THEY DON'T HAVE AN EQUAL MATCH, WHAT WE WOULD DO THEN, WE WOULD PRORATE THOSE FUNDS ACCORDING TO THE LESSER. SO THE LESSER MATCH WOULD GET THEIR FUNDS AND THE LARGER MATCH WOULD GET THEN WHAT'S LEFT OVER, I BELIEVE IS THE WAY IT WILL WORK. BUT WE WILL WORK THROUGH THAT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

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SENATOR SCHILZ: THAT'S THE CONCEPT, AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN GET THAT DONE. AND I NEED TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE AN AMENDMENT TO THIS BILL BUT WOULD BE AN AMENDMENT TO LB661, WHICH WILL COME UP HERE SHORTLY. SO WITH THAT, I APPRECIATE EVERYBODY'S HELP. I APPRECIATE EVERYBODY'S PASSION ON THIS ISSUE, AND I THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO SOMETHING THAT HOPEFULLY MOST OF US CAN BE SUPPORTIVE OF. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657 LB661]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. THE REAL FUN IN THIS WHOLE ISSUE IS OVER IN LB661, AM831, WHERE IT KIND OF LAYS OUT A LAW SCHOOL EXAM. AND I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS TO ANY LAW SCHOOL PROFESSOR AT CREIGHTON OR THE UNIVERSITY WHO'S LOOKING FOR A QUICK WAY TO COOK UP A FINAL EXAM IN STATE OR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. SENATOR MELLO, ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS? [LB657 LB661]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. ARE YOU FAMILIAR THEN WITH LB661? [LB657 LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: LB661 IS THE FUND TRANSFER BILL WHICH IS PART OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S MAINLINE BUDGET BILLS. CORRECT. [LB657 LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: OKAY. IF YOU BEAR WITH ME AND GO THROUGH SOME OF THIS, THE FIRST REQUIREMENT IN THE TRANSFER BILL IS THAT THE APPLICANT BE A CORPORATION. IS THERE ANY REASON IT SHOULD NOT BE OR COULD NOT BE A GOVERNMENT OR ANOTHER STATE OR AN INTERSTATE COMPACT OR A FEDERAL EXCHANGE? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, THE WAY THAT THE COMMITTEE ULTIMATELY ADOPTED PROVISIONS OF LB584 WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE APPROPRIATION TO THE COORDINATING COMMISSION WOULD GO TO A

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CONTRACT FOR SERVICES FOR A 501(c)(3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION. [LB657
LB584]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: I'VE ONLY GOT FIVE MINUTES HERE, SO REALLY THE
OBJECT OF IT BEING A CORPORATION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ITS ABILITY
BUT THE OBJECT WAS TO GET IT TO A CORPORATION THAT WAS A 501(c)(3).
[LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: CORRECT. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: WHY NOT JUST A REGULAR BUSINESS CORPORATION?
[LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT WAS JUST NOT A CONSIDERATION WE MADE, SENATOR
SCHUMACHER, IN REGARDS TO ANY PRIVATE CORPORATION OR FOR-PROFIT
ENTITY WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED IN REGARDS TO...
[LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: EVEN THOUGH SOME OF...IT'S CONCEIVABLE THAT
SOME COULD. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: CONCEIVABLE THAT A FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION IN
NEBRASKA IS RUNNING SOME KIND OF EDUCATION PROGRAM? I GUESS YOU
COULD SAY THAT, YES. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: OKAY. ONE OF THE NEXT CRITERIA IS THAT IT HAS TO
BE 75 DENTAL STUDENTS. ANY REASON FOR THAT NUMBER RATHER THAN 25 OR
175? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: AS SENATOR SCHILZ I BELIEVE DISCUSSED EARLIER ON THE
MIKE, ORIGINALLY IN HIS PROPOSAL IT WAS 100 STUDENTS WHO WERE
ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM. AND THEY DISCUSSED THAT AFTER THE BILL WAS
INTRODUCED IN REGARDS TO WANTING TO PUT REQUIREMENTS THAT THE
ACADEMIC PROGRAM ASSOCIATED WITH THE DENTAL CLINIC WOULD HAVE
SOME KIND OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, THAT THEY WERE GRADUATING
THESE STUDENTS. [LB657]

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SENATOR SCHUMACHER: IS THERE ANY RATIONAL REASON FOR THE NUMBER 75? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT WAS A DECISION THAT SENATOR SCHILZ HAD MADE IN REGARDS TO THE SUPPORTERS OF THE BILL. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: ANOTHER PROVISION IS THAT IT HAS TO HAVE FIVE LETTERS OF INTENT FROM SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS. ANY REASON THAT 3 WOULDN'T BE GOOD OR 12? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I THINK THE CRITERIA THAT THEY CAME TO WITH FIVE WAS THEY ALSO I BELIEVE SAID FIVE COUNTIES THAT THEY HAD TO SERVE RESIDENTS IN AS WELL, AND I THINK THEY TRIED TO BE CONSISTENT OF KEEPING FIVE COUNTIES AND FIVE ESSENTIALLY LETTERS OF SUPPORT SHOWING THERE'S A PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: SO THAT NUMBER FIVE IS AGAIN A FAIRLY ARBITRARY NUMBER THAT WAS ARRIVED AT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT. IT'S AN ARBITRARY NUMBER. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: OKAY. AND IS THERE ANY REASON FOR CLOSING A CLASS ON FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS AS BEING ON JANUARY 1, 2010? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THE REALITY IS, IS RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TENTATIVELY APPROPRIATED MONEY FOR A NEW FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER THAT IS GOING TO BE COMING INTO OPERATIONS IN GRAND ISLAND. SO IT'S BASED RIGHT NOW THAT COULD OSTENSIBLY CHANGE WITH THE NEW ADDITION OF A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER IN GRAND ISLAND. THAT WAS THE LANGUAGE THAT WE'VE USED RIGHT NOW IN PRETTY MUCH EVERY OTHER ISSUE SURROUNDING OUR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: RIGHT. BUT THAT IS A CLOSED CLASS BECAUSE THERE WILL NEVER BE ONE THAT EXISTED...HAS EXISTED ON... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: WE COULD CHANGE THAT DATE I GUESS, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, TO JANUARY 1, 2016, IF WE WANTED TO. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: OKAY. BUT ESSENTIALLY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR THESE HEALTH CENTERS WOULD HAVE THE POWER, IF THEY DON'T COMPLY, TO TERMINATE THIS PROGRAM BECAUSE NOBODY COULD QUALIFY. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO LEAVE A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ENTITY. THAT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ANYONE WHO DECIDES WILLINGLY TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. CLEARLY, WE CANNOT GIVE MONEY TO CREIGHTON--UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THE VEHICLE FOR THIS IS FRAUGHT WITH THINGS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN JUSTIFIED. MAYBE THEY WILL BE JUSTIFIED ON LB661, BUT THERE'S A GREAT DEAL OF QUESTION SURROUNDING THE WAY THAT THIS MECHANISM IS BEING CREATED FOR FUNNELING MONEY AND, WHAT IS APPARENT ON THE FLOOR, THAT THIS IS INTENDED FOR ONE SPECIAL INSTITUTION. [LB657 LB661]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS? SENATOR PANSING BROOKS WAIVES. SENATOR NORDQUIST. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR TO US CIRCLE IN ON THE PEOPLE THAT WOULD BE IMPACTED BY THIS. FIRST OF ALL, THE CURRENT NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT ARE BEING SERVED IN THE CLINIC IS ABOUT 11,000. BUT THIS WOULD...THIS NEW PROJECT, AND AGAIN, THIS...YES, IT'S A DENTAL SCHOOL, BUT THIS DENTAL SCHOOL IS SO MISSION-FOCUSED THAT THEIR EDUCATION IS BASED ON SERVING LOW-INCOME AND UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUALS WHO, QUITE FRANKLY, DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER PATHWAY TO GETTING DENTAL CARE. THAT'S WHAT MAKES THIS SO DIFFERENT. THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS OUT THERE. WELL, IN NEBRASKA THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER, BUT THERE ARE OTHERS ACROSS THE

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COUNTRY. BUT THIS IS WHY CREIGHTON HAS SUCH A HIGH APPLICATION RATE. ONE-THIRD OF THE DENTAL STUDENTS THAT APPLY...PEOPLE THAT APPLY TO DENTAL SCHOOL EVERY YEAR APPLY TO CREIGHTON BECAUSE OF THE UNIQUE SITUATION WHERE THEY ARE SERVING 11,000 PATIENTS, 44,000 VISITS EVERY YEAR. MOST DENTAL SCHOOLS, YES, HAVE CLINICAL EXPERIENCES, BUT NOTHING SO MISSION-DRIVEN AS THE DENTAL SCHOOL AT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY. AND WITH THE NEW DENTAL SCHOOL, WE'RE LOOKING AT SOMEWHERE AROUND A 25 PERCENT INCREASE IN THAT CARE THAT CAN BE PROVIDED. IT'S GREAT FOR THE COMMUNITIES THAT IT'S SERVING, THE COMMUNITIES IN EAST OMAHA AND NORTH OMAHA AND SOUTH OMAHA. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE UNDERSERVED WITHOUT THIS CARE. AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? HERE'S ONE STATISTIC THAT CAME OUT AT THE HEARING THAT I THINK IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL. THE CREIGHTON DENTAL CLINIC RIGHT NOW, WITH THE VISITS THAT THEY HAVE, SEE MORE PATIENTS FOR URGENT CARE THAN ALL OF THE OMAHA CITY HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS COMBINED FOR DENTAL CARE. A \$100 DENTAL VISIT AT THE CREIGHTON DENTAL SCHOOL SAVES THE STATE BECAUSE SO MANY OF THESE PEOPLE ARE EITHER...ARE LARGELY ARE MEDICAID PATIENTS BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF UNINSURED AS WELL. AND WE KNOW THAT THAT COST GETS SHIFTED. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THOUSANDS OF VISITS EVERY YEAR THAT SHOW UP AT THE CREIGHTON DENTAL CLINIC FOR A DENTAL VISIT AND DENTAL TREATMENT THAT WOULD OTHERWISE SHOW UP IN AN EMERGENCY ROOM. AND WHAT HAPPENS IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM IS THE DOCTOR, THE PHYSICIAN, WILL TREAT THE PAIN BUT THEY WON'T...THEY DON'T HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE OR THE DENTIST IN PLACE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM TO TREAT THE CAUSE OF THE PAIN. THIS EXPANSION...AND CURRENTLY THE \$8 MILLION A YEAR OF CARE THAT IS BEING PROVIDED UNCOMPENSATED AT THE CREIGHTON DENTAL CLINIC IS SAVING THE STATE MUCH MORE THAN JUST THAT \$8 MILLION OF SERVICE. BUT WE'RE TALKING PROBABLY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS BECAUSE, AGAIN, IT IS PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM GOING TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM WITH AN ORAL HEALTH PROBLEM. SENATOR DAVIS, I BELIEVE, MENTIONED FROM THE HEARING, AND I HAVE THE HEARING TRANSCRIPT, OF A CONSTITUENT OF HIS. THE GENTLEMAN'S NAME WAS FRANK PATTERSON. HE DROVE HE SAID SIX HOURS FROM VALENTINE TO COME BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND SPEAK FOR FIVE MINUTES, AND HE WANTED TO PORTRAY THAT...THE IMPORTANCE OF A PROGRAM LIKE THE CREIGHTON DENTAL SCHOOL AND THE IMPACT THAT IT WAS HAVING IN RURAL NEBRASKA. HE FOUND A HOME IN VALENTINE, PURCHASED A DENTAL CLINIC THAT HAD BEEN PENDING FOR SALE FOR FIVE YEARS. [LB657]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: VALENTINE, NEBRASKA, THE RETIRING DENTIST HAD BEEN TRYING TO SELL HIS PRACTICE FOR FIVE YEARS AND COULDN'T RETIRE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ACCESS, THERE WAS NO ONE TO STEP IN AND FILL THE VOID, AND THE DENTIST THAT WAS THERE FELT THE NEED TO CONTINUE THAT SERVICE. RIGHT NOW, THIS GENTLEMAN HAS ALSO RECRUITED ADDITIONAL PROVIDERS TO THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING GOING BACK TO CREIGHTON AND RECRUITING OTHER PROVIDERS FROM THE CREIGHTON COMMUNITY OUT TO THE PANHANDLE OF NEBRASKA. THIS CLEARLY IS AN EDUCATION INSTITUTION THAT IS NOT ONLY FILLING THE NEED IN ITS NEIGHBORHOOD, A NEED THAT WOULD GO UNMET OR A NEED THAT WOULD ONLY BE MET BY MORE EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS. BUT IT'S A...FILLING THE NEED OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ALL ACROSS THE STATE. AND IT DOES... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR McCOY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I APPRECIATE SENATOR SCHILZ AND SENATOR MELLO SPEAKING A FEW MOMENTS AGO ABOUT ONGOING DISCUSSIONS AMONG SOME OF US HERE ON THE FLOOR ABOUT A COMPROMISE AMENDMENT THAT I BELIEVE IS BEING DRAFTED AS WE SPEAK THAT WILL ACTUALLY COME...WILL BE INTRODUCED ON LB661, THE TRANSFER BILL WHENEVER WE GET TO THAT LATER ON TODAY OR IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HERE ON THE FLOOR. BUT I DID WANT TO RISE BECAUSE I DO HAVE A FEW STATISTICS THAT I HAD ASKED. I DIDN'T EXPECT NECESSARILY SENATOR MELLO TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS, BUT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER'S ANNUAL REPORT, WHICH I THINK IS INSTRUCTIVE IN THAT IT GIVES US A PERSPECTIVE, I BELIEVE, ON THIS OVERARCHING DISCUSSION OF THE TWO DENTAL SCHOOLS THAT WE HAVE CURRENTLY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND THE IMPACT THAT BOTH OF THEM HAVE ON UNDERSERVED AND UNSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE. AND THAT IS THAT--AND THIS ACTUALLY WAS A FAIRLY ASTONISHING STATISTIC, I THOUGHT--80 PERCENT OF DENTISTS OUTSIDE OF LINCOLN AND OMAHA GRADUATED FROM UNMC DENTAL SCHOOL WHICH, OF COURSE, IS ON THE EAST CAMPUS. THAT'S A FAIRLY INTERESTING STATISTIC, I

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BELIEVE, AND AS WE TALK ABOUT THE UNDERSERVED AND UNSERVED RURAL AREAS OF OUR STATE. UNMC STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO DO A TWO-WEEK ROTATION IN RURAL NEBRASKA TO GIVE THEM A PERSPECTIVE IF THEY AREN'T FROM THAT AREA OF THE STATE ON JUST WHAT AN IMPACT THEY CAN HAVE SERVING THE COMMUNITIES IN THE AREAS AND A LOT OF THE DISTRICTS OF THOSE OF US HERE ON THE FLOOR. AND A QUESTION I HAD ASKED EARLIER THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW THE EXACT ANSWER TO, UNMC GRADUATES 46 DENTAL STUDENTS EACH YEAR THROUGH THEIR PROGRAM. THAT'S THEIR MAXIMUM CAPACITY. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THEY'VE BEEN AT THAT MAXIMUM CAPACITY EITHER EVERY YEAR OR ALMOST EVERY YEAR SINCE THE 1970s FROM NEAR AS WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN. SO HOPEFULLY THAT'S, FOR THE RECORD, IS SOME INFORMATION THAT I CERTAINLY FOUND USEFUL BASED UPON THE CONVERSATION THAT WE HAD HAD THIS AFTER...OR HAVE HAD, I SHOULD SAY, THIS AFTERNOON. BECAUSE IN MY MIND WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TAXPAYER DOLLARS, WE SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THOSE TAXPAYER DOLLARS ACROSS THE STATE. BECAUSE IT VERY WELL MAY BE...AND SENATOR KRIST SAID A FEW MINUTES AGO, WELL, THE UNIVERSITY DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS IN THEIR BUDGET. WELL, WE HAD A SIMILAR SITUATION A COUPLE YEARS AGO WHEN THE UNIVERSITY DIDN'T ASK FOR SOME FUNDS, AND I BELIEVE WE GAVE THEM \$20-SOME MILLION FOR A CAPITAL PROJECT THAT WE BELIEVED HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE THEY NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE, AND THEY DID SO. IF WE TRULY, AND I BELIEVE THAT WE DO, HAVE AN ISSUE WITH UNDERSERVED AND UNSERVED AREAS OF OUR STATE, WHETHER THEY BE URBAN OR RURAL, THEN WHY NOT PROVIDE BOTH DENTAL SCHOOLS IN THE STATE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO THESE TAXPAYER DOLLARS? THAT IS THE NEXUS OF THE AMENDMENT THAT WILL BE FORTHCOMING ON LB661 WHICH I SUPPORT. AND I APPRECIATE THE WORK THAT'S BEEN DONE TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THAT AMENDMENT LATER ON IN OUR DEBATE ON THE BUDGET BILLS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657 LB661]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. SENATOR SCHILZ WAIVES. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED, AND THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB657]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, HERE'S A NOVEL IDEA. WE'VE GOT THIS \$8 MILLION IN THE BUDGET. WE CAN'T GIVE IT TO CREIGHTON BECAUSE IT'S NOT LEGAL. HOW ABOUT WE LET THE TAXPAYERS KEEP IT? LET'S NOT TAKE IT AWAY FROM THEM. LET'S NOT SPEND IT. WOULDN'T THAT BE SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT DOWN HERE? MY GOSH, I BELIEVE THAT'S A REVOLUTIONARY IDEA. EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS THAT WE'VE

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DETERMINED WE CAN'T LEGALLY JUST STRAIGHT GIVE TO CREIGHTON FOR A PROGRAM, SO RATHER THAN LET THE PEOPLE HAVE IT, WE'RE GOING TO FIND SOMEPLACE ELSE TO PUT IT. I'VE GOT A NUMBER OF PLACES WE COULD PUT IT. THAT WOULD 20 TIMES OVER TAKE CARE OF REMOVING THE SALES TAX FROM THE VETERANS GROUPS. THERE ARE A PLETHORA OF THINGS WE COULD DO WITH THAT MONEY, BUT I THINK A GREAT IDEA WOULD BE JUST DON'T SPEND IT. I DON'T SEE SENATOR CHAMBERS HERE RIGHT NOW. IF HE'D POP HIS HEAD UP, I WOULD YIELD HIM SOME TIME IF HE WANTS IT. SENATOR CHAMBERS, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TIME? I YIELD TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED AND YOU HAVE 3:10. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND IS IT OKAY IF I SPEAK FROM BACK HERE? [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YES. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THIS IS...I'VE FRIGHTENED PEOPLE BACK HERE. THEY HAD HEARD MY VOICE (LAUGHTER) BY MEANS OF THE MIKE, BUT WHEN I WAS ACTUALLY HERE IN PERSON THERE WAS A LITTLE FEAR THAT DESCENDED OVER THE PLACE. I THINK THERE IS AN ATTEMPT ON THE PART OF SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES TO COME TO SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT OR OTHER, BUT IT STILL STICKS IN MY CRAW THAT PUBLIC MONEY IS GOING TO GO TO A PRIVATE ENTITY. AND EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE MENTION THE CANCER RESEARCH, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYBODY IN HERE WHO WOULD SAY THAT MERELY PUTTING PEOPLE THROUGH DENTAL SCHOOL IS THE SAME AS CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON THE MOST INTRACTABLE DISEASE, INTRACTABLE DISEASES, THAT HAS AFFLICTED HUMAN BEINGS. THIS IS PRIMARILY A METHODOLOGY TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF CREIGHTON'S FACILITY. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING DENTAL HEALTHCARE THROUGHOUT THE STATE BECAUSE THE STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM THERE ARE NOT GOING TO STAY IN NEBRASKA. THE ONES WHO STAY IN NEBRASKA ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE BY VISITING SOME OUT-OF-THE-WAY LITTLE TOWN EVERY NOW AND THEN FOR A DENTAL FAIR. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP LISTENING. BY THE WAY, I'M GOING TO WITHDRAW THIS MOTION THAT'S UP THERE. I WANTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND I'VE HAD THAT OPPORTUNITY, AND THERE HAS BEEN THE KIND OF DISCUSSION I WAS HOPING THAT WE WOULD HAVE. BUT I'M GOING TO CONTINUE AS THE BILL MOVES ALONG, NOT THIS ONE. THIS BILL IS NOT WHERE THE

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ACTION IS. THIS BILL COULD EITHER PASS OR NOT PASS, AND THE REAL WORK STILL PROBABLY IS IN, I THINK IT'S, THE LB661 BILL. AND BECAUSE OF MY ATTITUDE TOWARD IT, I WOULD CALL IT THE 666 BILL BECAUSE IT HAS THE MARK OF THE BEAST AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. BUT TO MAKE SURE, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT I DON'T RUN OUT OF TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW THAT PENDING MOTION THAT I HAVE ON THE DESK AT THIS POINT. [LB657 LB661]

SPEAKER HADLEY: IT IS. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. WE ARE NOW BACK TO THE CHAMBERS' AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS IS WAIVING. SENATOR NORDQUIST, AND THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME. I'M SORRY, WE ARE BACK TO THE AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, SO IT IS NOT YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: HELLO. THERE WE GO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I JUST WANT TO MAKE ONE POINT THAT CAME UP IN A LOT OF THE COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS FROM PEOPLE THAT WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THIS. CERTAINLY I KNOW THIS WAS A KEY POINT FOR SENATOR KINTNER AND OTHERS THAT...AND THIS GETS TO THE COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT WHY DON'T WE USE IT FOR THIS FOR THIS TAX CUT OR USE IT FOR THAT. THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ONE-TIME FUNDING AND ONGOING FUNDING. AND, YOU KNOW, CONSERVATIVES LIKE SENATOR KINTNER THOUGHT HE WOULD RATHER PUT DOLLARS INTO BRICK AND MORTAR, INTO ONE-TIME PROJECTS TO...THAT WOULDN'T BE PERPETUALLY DRAINING ON THE STATE RESERVE. SO, YOU KNOW, THE CONCERN IS, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY PROJECTS IN OUR BUDGET THAT I THINK ARE VERY WORTHY. BUT EVERY TIME WE APPROVE A PROJECT FOR THE UNIVERSITY, THEY COME BACK AND WE NEED TO APPROPRIATE SIGNIFICANT DOLLARS FOR ONGOING OPERATIONS. AND WE SEE IT THIS YEAR WITH THE OPERATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-KEARNEY ALLIED HEALTH CENTER THAT WE PUT MONEY INTO AND, THROUGH SOME MISCOMMUNICATION, DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR ONGOING OPERATIONS OF THAT FACILITY. SO THAT'S WHY DOING A CONTRACT APPROACH TO PRIVATE ENTITIES TO HELP FILL THE NEED, YOU KNOW, HAS THE POTENTIAL IN THESE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO SAVE THE STATE SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES MOVING FORWARD. SO THERE ARE TWO APPROACHES, CERTAINLY, TO SOLVING COMPLEX PROBLEMS IN OUR SOCIETY. CERTAINLY THE APPROACHES THAT ARE NEEDED TO SOLVE THE ORAL HEALTH PROBLEM NEED ACCESS OF BOTH OF THOSE APPROACHES. BUT, FOR INSTANCE, WE TALKED ABOUT THE RURAL HEALTH STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM WHICH LAST YEAR I CARRIED A BILL AND GOT MORE MONEY IN THE BUDGET FOR THAT PROGRAM.

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BUT THAT IS AN ONGOING GENERAL FUND EXPENSE AND THAT'S SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT THAN THE BRICKS AND MORTAR THAT ARE NEEDED, AND THIS WILL HELP EXPAND THE BRICKS AND MORTAR TO HELP EDUCATE AND ALSO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND THE STATE AT THE SAME TIME. SO THAT'S WHY WHEN WE'RE LOOKING AT THINGS, WE NEED TO LOOK AT THEM THROUGH A LENS OF EITHER ONE-TIME FUNDING OR ONGOING FUNDING. AND THAT'S WHAT WE TRY TO DO IN THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.
[LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR McCOY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAD A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS FOR SENATOR MELLO IF HE WOULD YIELD, PLEASE. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: OF COURSE. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, SENATOR. I WANTED TO SHIFT GEARS A LITTLE BIT AWAY FROM THE DISCUSSION ON THE ORAL HEALTH FUND AND ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ON...AND I'M LOOKING AND STARTING ON PAGE 60, I BELIEVE, OF OUR BUDGET, BIENNIAL BUDGET BOOK. AND I KNOW IT'S FOUND, I THINK, STARTING ON MAYBE PAGE 64 ACTUALLY ON THE UNDERLYING AM829, I BELIEVE AS WELL, WHEN WE SPLIT OUT GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY AGENCY. AND AS WE KNOW, SENATOR, I KNOW WE'RE HOLDING AT 3 POINT, WELL, I SHOULD...AT 3.1 PERCENT OVER THE FIRST YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM AS FAR AS THE RATE OF GROWTH OF OUR STATE GOVERNMENT. IS THAT CORRECT?
[LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: CORRECT. AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH OVER EACH YEAR, YES.
[LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: RIGHT. THANK YOU FOR THAT CLARIFICATION. YOU'RE CORRECT. AS I LOOK THROUGH, STARTING ON PAGE 60, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I'M UNDERSTANDING CORRECTLY AND MAKE SURE MY READING IS ACCURATE, DOWN THROUGH PAGE 62, CAN YOU WALK ME THROUGH WHAT AGENCIES HAD OR ARE GOING TO END UP WITH A RATE OF GROWTH GREATER

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THAN 10 PERCENT? I WANT TO MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND THAT CORRECTLY.
[LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR McCOY, I'D HAVE TO...IT'S A FAIR QUESTION, AND IF YOU GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME I CAN PROBABLY COME UP WITH A LIST AND SHARE WITH YOU ON THE MIKE OR OFF THE MIKE IN REGARDS TO THE NUMBER OF AGENCIES THAT HAVE A GENERAL FUND...I'M ASSUMING A GENERAL FUND INCREASE, AN AVERAGE GENERAL FUND INCREASE OF MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OVER THE BIENNIUM. I CAN PROBABLY GET YOU THAT. BUT FOR ME TO DO THAT SIMPLY ON THE MIKE HERE LOOKING AT THE BOOK, I WOULD NEED A LITTLE BIT OF TIME TO COLLECT THAT INFORMATION AND GET IT TO YOU. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: WELL, I UNDERSTAND, SENATOR. YOUR INTELLECTUAL PROWESS IS GREAT, BUT I'M NOT TRYING TO PUT YOU ON THE SPOT WITH THAT. BUT MY...THE REASON I ASK THAT QUESTION IS SOMETIMES IT'S EASY, IN YOU AND I'S (SIC) EXPERIENCE AND THOSE OF US THAT THIS IS, I GUESS, OUR FOURTH BIENNIUM THAT WE'VE BEEN A PART OF, IT SOMETIMES IS EASY TO LOOK AT THE OVERALL RATED GROWTH BUT SKIP OVER SOME OF OUR AGENCIES THAT, AND MANY TIMES IT'S WELL-INTENTIONED, HAVE FAIRLY SIGNIFICANT BUDGET INCREASES. YOU KNOW, ARE THERE...I GUESS I'LL ASK A QUESTION DIFFERENT... [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I COULD GIVE YOU A COUPLE IF YOU'RE LOOKING. I MEAN, I KNOW...I WOULD WANT TO GO THROUGH THE WHOLE LIST BUT AGENCIES THAT HAD SEEN AN AVERAGE OF 10 PERCENT GROWTH OVER THE BIENNIUM, THE OFFICE...AGENCY 7, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR; AGENCY 9, THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THOSE ARE TWO THAT RIGHT OFF THE BAT I KNOW, BASED OFF OF IF YOU LOOK THROUGH PAGE 60, 61, AND 62, HAVE SIZABLE ENOUGH INCREASES THAT HAS A GENERAL FUND...AVERAGE GENERAL FUND INCREASE OF AT LEAST 10 PERCENT OVER THE BIENNIUM. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: WELL, AND I'LL LOOK. I THINK IT'S AGENCY 35, ONE THAT JUMPED OUT AT ME. AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I'M UNDERSTANDING THIS CORRECTLY. IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME...THAT WOULD BE THE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION. IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME THAT THEY HAVE A 10 PERCENT GROWTH. IS THAT... [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: INCREASE THE FIRST YEAR, YOU'RE CORRECT. [LB657]

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SENATOR McCOY: FIRST YEAR. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: BUT THEN THE SECOND YEAR THEY HAD A 1.9 PERCENT GROWTH, AND IF YOU AVERAGE THAT GROWTH OVER THE BIENNIUM, GIVE OR TAKE, IT'S A LITTLE LESS THAN 6 PERCENT. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: CORRECT. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WAS FOR? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT WAS SPECIFICALLY FOR AN AUDITOR. THE MAIN APPROPRIATION WAS FOR THE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION TO HIRE A NEW AUDITOR TO BE ABLE TO AUDIT ESTABLISHMENTS, DISTRIBUTORS, WHICH IN THE CONVERSATION THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD BOTH DURING THE PRELIMINARY... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ...AND ARGUABLY THROUGH THE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION'S HEARING, EVERY TIME THAT WE HIRE A NEW AUDITOR, GIVE OR TAKE, THEY'RE ABLE TO BRING IN AT LEAST \$2 MILLION WORTH OF REVENUE BACK INTO THE STATE SO THAT THEY'RE ABLE TO GO OUT AND AUDIT THOSE ENTITIES AND THOSE BUSINESSES. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: AND THAT'S GOOD INFORMATION TO KNOW BECAUSE SOMETIMES WHEN YOU LOOK AT THESE STATISTICS, AND NOT BEING PRIVY TO WHAT YOU GO THROUGH ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, IT SOMETIMES IS HARD TO DETERMINE WHAT THESE INCREASES ARE ACTUALLY FOR. ANOTHER ONE I HAD A QUESTION ON, AND I MAY HAVE MORE QUESTIONS THAN WHAT I HAVE TIME ON THIS TIME ON THE MICROPHONE TO ASK, IS WHEN WE LOOK AT OUR CORRECTIONS SITUATION IN NEBRASKA. THERE'S A NUMBER OF AGENCIES THAT HAVE BUDGET INCREASES THAT JUMP OUT AT ME. I WOULD PRESUME THAT'S BECAUSE OF SOME ADDITIONAL SPENDING IN THE AREA OF SOME CORRECTIONS REFORMS. AND I'LL START WITH THE FIRST ONE BEING ACTUAL... [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I JUST WANTED TO RISE AND THANK SENATOR SCHILZ, SENATOR MELLO, SENATOR CHAMBERS, AND OTHERS FOR BEING WILLING TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME, WHICH WAS CREATING A PRIVATE FUND, A FUND THAT WOULD GIVE STATE DOLLARS TO PRIVATE EDUCATION. THAT'S BEEN MY GREATEST CONCERN. AS SENATOR WATERMEIER CORRECTLY SAID, WE NEED ALL OF THESE INSTITUTIONS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, AND HE'S RIGHT. WE DO NEED THAT. BUT WE ALSO NEED TO MAKE SURE TO PROTECT OUR PRIVATE DOLLARS. IF WE HAVE NEEDS OUTSTATE THAT...OR IN OTHER AREAS, HIGH NEEDS AREAS, THEN WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE NOT DILUTING OUR PUBLIC DOLLARS, OUR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BY GRANTING A SPECIAL LEGISLATION OR A SPECIAL ADVANTAGE TO THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS. PROBABLY SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE THE VERY MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE HAD TO DO WITH AN ISSUE IN FRONT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE THAT ALSO RELATES TO THIS, WHERE THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE A FUND WHERE APPROPRIATIONS COULD GIVE MONEY DIRECTLY TO THAT FUND JUST FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION AND FOR PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS. AGAIN, I DON'T THINK THAT'S REASONABLE. I DON'T THINK IT'S LEGAL, AND I WILL FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR PUBLIC DOLLARS GOING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION. THAT IS PROBABLY MY GREATEST PRIORITY HERE IN ADDITION TO POVERTY ISSUES. SO I WANT TO THANK PEOPLE. WE HAVE COME TO A TEMPORARY AGREEMENT THAT'S BEING DRAFTED THAT WILL ALLOW NEBRASKA AND CREIGHTON TO BE ABLE TO VIE FOR THOSE DOLLARS ON A FOUR-TO-ONE MATCH, AND TO HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THOSE DOLLARS. AND THAT CREATES MORE OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, IN MY MIND. AND IT'S LEGAL BECAUSE WE CAN CONTRACT BECAUSE THE STATE FINDS A NEED AND THAT NEED IS ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE IN THE RURAL PART OF THE STATE. AND SO WE ARE HELPING WITH THAT NEED BY ALLOWING THE STATE TO CONTRACT WITH BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS JUST AS THEY HAVE DONE IN 81-640.01 FOR THE CANCER CENTER. BUT IN THAT LAW IN SECTION 5 IT TALKS ABOUT, IT'S IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THIS STATE TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND PREVENT DUPLICATION OF RESEARCH EFFORTS BY SUPPORTING AND CONTRACTING WITH NEBRASKA COLLEGES--NOT A SPECIFIC COLLEGE, NOT CREIGHTON, NOT CREATING SOME SORT OF DESCRIPTION THAT WOULD ONLY ALLOW ONE COLLEGE TO DO IT--NEBRASKA COLLEGES OF MEDICINE WITH EXISTING PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE CANCER RESEARCH FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEBRASKA. AGAIN, SENATOR McCOY MENTIONED THAT 80 PERCENT OF DENTISTS IN NEBRASKA GRADUATE FROM UNMC, THEY'RE IN THE RURAL PART OF THE STATE. I HAVE A STATISTIC THAT 8 PERCENT OF CREIGHTON GRADUATES ARE IN RURAL AREAS. SO, AGAIN, WE NEED TO PROVIDE ACCESS. IF THE NEED IS THERE, THEN LET'S

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MAKE SURE THAT BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS HAVE THE ABILITY TO SEND OUR GRADUATES OUT WHERE IT'S NEEDED OR TO WHERE...OR IN WHERE IT'S NEEDED OR WHEREVER IT'S NEEDED. SO I WANT TO THANK EVERYBODY AGAIN FOR WORKING TO FIND SOME COMMON GROUND, AND I WILL GIVE THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE YIELDED 1:15. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND I WANT TO USE IT WISELY AND EFFICIENTLY. THE ARRANGEMENT THAT IS BEING MADE WILL ELIMINATE SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS AND OBJECTIONS, BUT IT WILL NOT REMOVE MY OBJECTION TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL GETTING THAT PUBLIC MONEY. THEY WILL NOT, IF THEY GET THE AMENDMENT THAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT, LIMIT THIS JUST TO CREIGHTON AND TAILOR IT TO CREIGHTON. BUT I STILL WILL OBJECT TO CREIGHTON BEING IN THE MIX. BUT SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS I WAS ABLE TO MAKE I SIMPLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE NOW. WE CAN DEAL WITH THE UNDERLYING POLICY QUESTION. AND WITH THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW MY PENDING AMENDMENT. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK. [LB657]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR BURKE HARR WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, AM1481. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1343.) [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HARR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I FILED THIS MOTION EARLIER WHEN I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A SHORTFALL, BUT I DON'T THINK THE UNDERLYING ISSUE REALLY GOES AWAY. CLEARLY, THIS BILL IS WELL-INTENTIONED. THE ISSUES SOME PROPONENTS HAVE DESCRIBED TO ME ABOUT SECTION 26 HAVE MERIT. AND WHEN I TALK ABOUT SECTION 26, FOLKS, WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT IS FUNDING FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. HOWEVER, SECTION 26 IS UNSUSTAINABLE. FUNDING FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CREATES AN ONGOING AND INCREASING LIABILITY. THE SECTION COULD EXHAUST THE RESERVES OF THIS STATE. UNDER CURRENT LAW, THOSE WHO WORK IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CAN BE PAID MORE THAN \$300 PER MONTH FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PLUS \$75 PER MONTH FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER. SECTION 26 INCREASES THE MAXIMUM PAYMENTS AN

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INDIVIDUAL WORKING FOR THE GOVERNOR CAN RECEIVE. SUPPORTERS OF SECTION 26, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, ASSERT THAT SALARIES SHOULD BE PAID FOR FROM GENERAL FUNDS. THE BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS MADE BY THE INCREASE, THE 19 PERCENT INCREASE IN SECTION 26, THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET, OFFICE BUDGET, COULD CAUSE A BUDGET-FUNDING SHORTFALL. THEIR OFFICE DOES NOT HAVE A BALANCE UNLIKE OTHER AREAS SUCH AS TANF, AND WILL REQUIRE EACH YEAR TO REMAIN... WILL REQUIRE GENERAL FUNDS EACH YEAR TO MAINTAIN THE SALARIES AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 26. FUTURE LEGISLATURES WILL HAVE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS SECTION 26 CREATES TODAY BY ADDING NEW GENERAL FUND SPENDING IN THE AMOUNT OF NEARLY \$4 MILLION EACH BIENNIAL OR CUTTING ASSISTANCE TO OTHER PROGRAMS. AS TO THE ARGUMENT THAT SALARIES HAVE NOT BEEN RAISED IN MANY YEARS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE CONTEXT OF FUNDING EXPANSION PROPOSED BY SECTION 26, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE BUDGET. INDIVIDUALS WHO QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS...OR EMPLOYEES QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS SUCH AS HEALTH INSURANCE, RETIREMENT, AND LIFE INSURANCE. IN ADDITION, INDIVIDUALS BECOME INELIGIBLE, MEANING THEY LOSE THEIR JOB, CAN BE BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR EXTENDED BENEFITS WHICH ALSO EXCLUDE...INCLUDE SIX MONTHS OR MORE OF COVERAGE, SUCH AS INSURANCE. I REMAIN OPEN TO A SOLUTION THAT WILL PROVIDE CONTINUING AND LASTING SUPPORT FOR OUR GOVERNOR'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES. THE BROAD EXPANSION PROPOSED BY LB OR, EXCUSE ME, SECTION 26 COMES AT A TIME WHEN OUR STATE FACES POTENTIAL BUDGET UNCERTAINTIES. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO ENACT SUCH A BROAD EXPANSION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANT BENEFITS. THIS BILL, THIS SECTION IS NOT SUSTAINABLE. A 19 PERCENT GROWTH IS NOT SUSTAINABLE NOR DOES IT CONSIDER A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF SALARIES. THOSE ARE MY GOALS IN HAVING AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT DELIVERY SYSTEM. I RECOGNIZE THE MERITS OF WORKING TOWARDS A LONG-TERM SOLUTION AND I WOULD AGREE TO A NEW BUDGET FOR SECTION 26 WITH A FOUR-YEAR SUNSET PROVISION. THAT WOULD GIVE THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES TIME TO WORK TOGETHER AND TO FIND A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE. FOR EACH OF THESE REASONS, I RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO SUSTAIN MY MOTION ON AM829 TO WITHDRAW SECTION 26. NOW, OBVIOUSLY, I'M BEING A LITTLE FACETIOUS. BUT, FOLKS, THIS IS WHAT WE DO! WE MAKE LAW, AND WE CAN'T ALWAYS GUARANTEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN FUTURE LEGISLATION OR HOW FUTURE LEGISLATURES WILL DO. WE MAKE A BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM AND WE MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS FUNDING FOR THE BIENNIUM. AND, GOSH DARN IT, I HAVE NO IDEA HOW WE WILL FUND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE IN 2021. I SURE HOPE WE CAN FIND A WAY, BUT IT SURE SEEMS WRONG THAT WE INCREASE THE

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET BY 19 PERCENT AND AT THE SAME TIME WE SAY THE POOREST OF THE POOR WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN INCREASE IN 30 YEARS SINCE GOVERNOR KAY ORR WAS GOVERNOR, WE DON'T HAVE MONEY FOR THEM. WELL, WE DO, WE DO HAVE MONEY, BUT AFTER 2021 WE MAY NOT HAVE MONEY. WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT? WE MAY NOT HAVE MONEY FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DRAW THE PRIORITIES OR WHERE TO DRAW THESE PRIORITIES. BUT IF I HAVE TO I'M PROBABLY GOING TO DRAW IT ON THE POOREST OF THE POOR, AND I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT AT THE EXPENSE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO IS RECEIVE HANDSOME SUMS AND HANDSOME SALARIES AND NOW THEY'RE INCREASED AND THE OFFICE IS INCREASED AT 19 PERCENT. IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR. IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT, AND THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS SENT DOWN TO LINCOLN TO DO. I WAS SENT DOWN HERE, GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. THESE ARE KIDS WHOSE PARENTS, FOR WHATEVER REASON, DON'T HAVE A JOB. AND THIS IS NOT A SAFETY NET. THIS IS A TEMPORARY. YOU CAN'T STAY ON IT FOREVER. AND WE'RE SAYING YOU CAN'T HAVE AN INCREASE. WELL, BUT, YOU KNOW, THEY STILL HAVE FOOD STAMPS AND THEY STILL HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE. WELL, THAT'S TRUE. BUT MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON BREAD AND WATER ALONE. YOU NEED JEANS. YOU NEED SCHOOL SUPPLIES. YOU NEED HAIRCUTS. YOU KNOW, THERE'S A CERTAIN SELF-WORTH THAT COMES FROM WHO YOU ARE AND HOW YOU PRESENT YOURSELF. AND WHEN YOU GO 30 YEARS WITHOUT AN INCREASE, THE WORLD DOESN'T STAND STILL, AND THESE INDIVIDUALS, WE'RE PUSHING THEM FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO POVERTY. AND WE CAN'T SUSTAIN THAT. WE CAN'T HAVE BILLIONAIRES AND THEN PEOPLE IN POVERTY AND SAY PEOPLE IN POVERTY, KIDS IN POVERTY, IT'S YOUR FAULT. GET OVER IT. MAYBE GET A JOB BUT WE'LL PAY YOU LESS. I MEAN, WHERE DOES IT STOP, FOLKS? SO I HAVE A STRIKE THROUGH THERE. MAYBE WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO IS TO PASS THIS AND BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT WE CAN WORK WITH THE GOVERNOR TO FIND A WAY, A SOLUTION SO THAT IT'S SUSTAINABLE THAT WE FUND HIS OFFICE SO THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE AN OPERATION. BUT, YOU KNOW, RIGHT NOW IT'S NOT THERE. IF I WERE THE GOVERNOR MAYBE I'D VETO THAT SECTION 26 IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE. IT'D SEEM CONSISTENT WITH THE LETTER WHICH, BY THE WAY, MY OPENING IN CASE ANY OF YOU DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT, WAS THE GOVERNOR'S VETO LETTER, REWORDED A LITTLE BIT. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON AM829. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO THE AMENDMENT. SENATOR McCOY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WONDERED IF SENATOR MELLO WOULD YIELD AGAIN, PLEASE. [LB657]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, SENATOR. I DIDN'T GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO FINISH A FEW OF THE QUESTIONS I HAD ON OUR GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS BY AGENCY. I HAD A FEW FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS, IF I MAY. IN THIS PROCESS AND I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY HOW MANY BILLS IT IS. I HAVEN'T STOPPED TO COUNT. OBVIOUSLY A NUMBER OF THEM BEING APPROPRIATIONS BILLS OR I SHOULD SAY A NUMBER OF AGENCY REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATIONS THAT HAVE TO DO WITH CORRECTIONS REFORMS, AND THEN OBVIOUSLY A NUMBER OF OTHER CORRECTIONS BILLS THAT WE'VE...SOME OF WHICH WE'VE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT YET THIS SESSION. WE HAD LAST LEFT OFF TALKING ABOUT THE LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION AND THEIR INCREASE IN THEIR BUDGET OF 10 PERCENT IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE BIENNIUM. I HAD SOME FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT AGENCY 46, WHICH IS THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, AND A COUPLE OF OTHER AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS. I WOULD ASSUME FROM CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, WHERE WE LOOK AT, I BELIEVE, AN 11...JUST 11 OR 11.2 PERCENT INCREASE, FROM MY READING THAT HAS TO DO WITH INMATE HEALTHCARE. IS THAT ACCURATE, SENATOR? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR McCOY, THE LARGEST SINGLE INCREASE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OVER THE BIENNIUM IS THE INMATE MEDICAL PER DIEMS. THE BIGGEST ISSUE SURROUNDING THAT IS A NEW HEPATITIS C MEDICATION THAT HAS COME OUT ON THE MARKET THAT IS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER COST THAN WHAT CURRENTLY IS BEING PROVIDED. WE LOOKED AT THAT ISSUE ACTUALLY. BEFORE I LOOKED AT IT WITH THE FISCAL OFFICE BEFORE THE SESSION STARTED WHEN THE ISSUE CAME ON MY RADAR, AND STATE LAW REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO PROVIDE THE SAME STANDARD OF CARE THAT'S PROVIDED IN THE COMMUNITY. AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOTH ATTRIBUTE THAT STANDARD OF CARE TO WHAT IS PROVIDED AT THE STATE'S LONE MEDICAL INSTITUTION OR MEDICAL CENTER WHICH IS AT UNMC. [LB657]

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SENATOR McCOY: AND IS THAT TO MEAN, SENATOR, THAT THERE'S NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE FOR THAT HEPATITIS VACCINE THAT'S LOWER COST? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: WHAT IT IS, IS THAT WHATEVER STANDARD OF CARE THAT IS PROVIDED IN THE COMMUNITY, THAT SAME STANDARD OF CARE IS TO BE PROVIDED AT A STATE INSTITUTION, WHETHER IT'S AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, WHETHER IT'S AT THE REGIONAL CENTER, WHETHER THAT'S AT THE BEATRICE STATE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER. AND ARGUABLY, IT'S THE SAME COMPONENT THAT FOLLOWS WITH MEDICAID. THE MEDICAID PROGRAM ALSO HAS TO PROVIDE THE SAME STANDARD OF CARE THAT'S AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY. AND WITH THIS NEW HEPATITIS C MEDICATION THAT'S COME ONTO THE MARKET OVER THE LAST YEAR, THAT IS THE NEW, QUOTE UNQUOTE, STANDARD OF CARE THAT'S PROVIDED IN THE COMMUNITY. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: AND I GUESS I'M STILL A LITTLE FUZZY ON THAT BUT I'LL MOVE PAST THAT AND MAY ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS OFF THE MICROPHONE AT SOME POINT ON THAT. I WANT TO MOVE ON TO THE CRIME COMMISSION. AND THERE'S A FAIRLY SIZABLE INCREASE IN CRIME COMMISSION APPROPRIATION, AND I BELIEVE, AND THIS IS WHERE I COULD PROBABLY USE A LITTLE BIT OF YOUR EXPERTISE IN UNDERSTANDING, WHAT THAT IS FOR. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE'S A COMPONENT THERE AS WE MOVE TOWARDS SOME CORRECTIONS REFORM, SOME NEW DUTIES THAT WE'RE ASKING THE CRIME COMMISSION TO TAKE ON. IS THAT A FAIR CHARACTERIZATION? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I THINK, SENATOR McCOY, THE ISSUE, THE SINGLE LARGEST INCREASE IN THE CRIME COMMISSION WAS THE CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIALLY THE LEGISLATURE'S INTENT WHEN WE PASSED LB561 IN 2013. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: IF YOU CAN RECOLLECT WHEN WE HAD THAT DEBATE, SENATOR ASHFORD AT THE TIME ORIGINALLY HAD PROPOSED \$10 MILLION A YEAR FOR THIS AID PROGRAM THAT WOULD GO TO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME OF THE BIG REFORMS THAT SENATOR ASHFORD, SENATOR KRIST, SENATOR CAMPBELL WERE WORKING ON IN RESPECTS TO JUVENILE JUSTICE. WE INSTEAD, AS PART OF A COMPROMISE, SAID WE WILL STAIRSTEP

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THAT FUNDING UP TO \$10 MILLION OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. THAT WAS THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT WE USED ON THE FLOOR. THAT WAS THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT THAT WAS ON DEBATE IN WHICH WE ARE CARRYING THROUGH PART OF THAT LEGISLATIVE INTENT IN THIS BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS. RIGHT NOW, THE FUNDING IS AT \$5 MILLION A YEAR. WE TOOK THAT FUNDING UP TO \$7 MILLION EACH YEAR OVER THE BIENNIUM. SO WE'RE STILL NOT UP TO THAT \$10 MILLION LEGISLATIVE INTENT, BUT THAT WAS...I CAN GO ON THE MIKE ON MY OWN TIME AND EXPLAIN THAT IF YOU'D LIKE. [LB657]

SENATOR McCOY: IS IT THEN THE INTENTION TO UP THAT TO \$10 MILLION IN THE FUTURE EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T BIND A FUTURE LEGISLATURE? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: AT THIS POINT, SENATOR McCOY, I WOULD SAY NO, AND THAT WAS A CONVERSATION WE HAD IN THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE BECAUSE WE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO DO A DEEP DIVE IN RESPECTS TO WHERE ALL OF THE FUNDING THAT HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, WHAT ARE THE RESULTS AND THE OUTCOMES OF THAT FUNDING. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IN THE FUTURE WE WON'T DO THAT. WE WANTED TO PUT IT A LITTLE BIT ON PAUSE THE SECOND YEAR. WE ORIGINALLY IN THE PRELIMINARY HAD IT AT \$10 MILLION, BUT BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH THE OFFICE OF PROBATION, THE SUPREME COURT, HHS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ARENA, WE THOUGHT IT WAS BEST FOR US TO LEAVE IT FLAT AT \$7 MILLION BOTH YEARS, HAVE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND OTHER INTERESTED SENATORS TAKE A DEEPER DIVE IN REGARDS TO THE OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH THAT JUVENILE JUSTICE AID. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATORS. THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOY AND SENATOR MELLO. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) RETURNING TO DEBATE: SENATOR GROENE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, SENATOR MELLO, BLOOMFIELD, AND PANSING BROOKS. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I'D LIKE TO RETURN US BACK TO THE FACT THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TAX DOLLARS OF PEOPLE AT WORK RIGHT NOW ACROSS THE STATE. AND WE'RE ACTING LIKE \$8 MILLION ISN'T MUCH. I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE THAT LONG THAT I DON'T THINK \$8 MILLION IS A LITTLE BIT OF NOTHING. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE'RE DOING IT. FRUSTRATION IS STARTING TO SET IN. SO WHEN I GO PAUSE I'M BITING MY TONGUE. WE'RE 39th, ACCORDING TO THE TAX FOUNDATION, IN PROPERTY

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TAXES; 29th IN OVERALL RANK; 31st IN CORPORATE INCOME TAXES; 25th IN INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE; SALES TAX RATE, 27th. AND I'M TOTALLY CONFUSED. I'M HEARING THIS CONVERSATION ABOUT THE DENTAL SCHOOL AS IF THERE'S NO INSURANCE OUT THERE, THERE'S NO MEDICAID, THERE'S NO MEDICARE. THIS IS PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE ANY WAY TO GET DENTAL CARE. I LOOKED AT THE BUDGET, A BILLION DOLLARS IN MEDICAID. I WOULD ESTIMATE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS \$2 BILLION IN MEDICARE THAT THEY COULD BRING INTO THIS STATE FOR MEDICAL...TAXPAYERS BRING INTO THIS STATE FOR MEDICAL CARE. I'M PAYING \$12,000 OR SO A YEAR FOR HEALTH INSURANCE WITH A \$5,000 DEDUCTIBLE. WHERE'S ALL THAT MONEY AT IN THE MEDICAL SYSTEM? NOTHING AGAINST THE PEOPLE IN THE DENTAL EDUCATION INDUSTRY, BUT I'M GUARANTEEING YOU THEY MAKE HIGH MIDDLE INCOME WAGES. I LOOKED UP FOR CREIGHTON. THE TUITION, \$322,000 FOR FOUR YEARS, OVER \$80,000 ANNUALLY. WHERE DOES THAT GO? WHERE DOES THAT GO? SO THEY CAN'T MANAGE THEIR BUDGETS THAT THEY PUT SOMETHING AWAY TO BUILD A NEW DENTAL SCHOOL. THE TAXPAYERS IN LINCOLN COUNTY ARE GOING TO HELP BUILD A NEW DENTAL SCHOOL. NOBODY IN LINCOLN COUNTY ASKED ME FOR DENTAL CARE BY THE GOVERNMENT. THEY ALREADY HAVE ACCESS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS. WE'VE PUMPED BILLIONS INTO THE MEDICAL FIELD, BILLIONS IN THIS COUNTRY, TRILLIONS. MEDICAID, I BELIEVE, COVERS DENTAL CARE. I KNOW A GUY WHO OWNS A TAXI SERVICE OUT IN NORTH PLATTE AND HIS BIGGEST CUSTOMER IS MEDICAID. HE TAKES PEOPLE FROM NORTH PLATTE TO SCOTTSBLUFF. HE SAID HE TOOK ONE TO SIOUX CITY ONCE BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THEIR DENTIST WAS AND WE PAID FOR IT. I'M SITTING HERE GOING, WHERE DID THIS BILL COME FROM? HOW SCREWED UP IS OUR NATION? HOW SCREWED UP IS OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM THAT WE GOT PEOPLE MAKING \$180,000 OR \$150,000 WORKING IN A DENTAL COLLEGE, AND THAT COLLEGE CAN'T BUDGET THEIR MONEY TO COME UP WITH \$8 MILLION TO BUILD THEIR OWN DENTAL SCHOOL? COME ON, FOLKS. THIS ISN'T OUR MONEY. THIS IS TAXPAYERS' MONEY. THIS IS INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS' MONEY. HOW DID WE ALL OF A SUDDEN GET HERE, AS \$12,000 WONDERS--I'M A \$12,000 WONDER--ALL OF A SUDDEN LOOK AT \$8 MILLION LIKE IT'S NOTHING? I DON'T SEE ANY MULTIMILLIONS THERE HERE, BUT SOMEHOW YOU GET A POLITICAL HAT ON, POLITICIAN'S HAT ON, AND WE JUST ACT LIKE THAT'S OUR MONEY TO SPEND. THAT'S THE STATE'S MONEY. IT ISN'T IT STATE'S MONEY. IT'S THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY. I GO THROUGH THIS BUDGET AND IT'S A MENAGERIE OF UNBELIEVABLE PROGRAMS JUST EVERYWHERE. AND I'M SITTING THERE LIVING MY LIFE FOR 59 YEARS AND I NEVER USED ANY OF THEM. MY FAMILY HAS NEVER USED ANY OF THEM. BUT YOU'RE TAKING MY MONEY IN TAXES. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. BUT I'VE GOT MY FELLOW FISCAL CONSERVATIVES SITTING HERE SAYING \$8 MILLION

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BUCKS, LET'S JUST THROW IT AROUND BECAUSE WE MIGHT HAVE 20 MORE DENTISTS OR 30 MORE DENTISTS FLOATING AROUND. YOU KNOW, I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: PRESIDENT OBAMA IS RIGHT. HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, AND THERE'S A LOT OF REPUBLICANS BELIEVE IT, CONSERVATIVES. YOU DIDN'T BUILD IT. THE GOVERNMENT BUILT IT. WE CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING HAPPEN IN THIS STATE UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED. A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY CAN'T BUILD A DENTAL COLLEGE UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT GETS INVOLVED. HOW FAR OFF TRACK HAVE WE GONE? I WAS HOPING I'D COME DOWN HERE AND THE FISCAL CONSERVATIVE THAT I KNOW IS OUT THERE IN "JOE SIX-PACK" AND "LUNCH-PAIL GUY" EXISTED HERE. IT DON'T! ANYWAY, THANK YOU FOR THE TIME. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, TO YOUR COMPLETE SHOCK AND AMAZEMENT, I'M WAIVING OFF. THANK YOU. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY STAND UP AND OPPOSE SENATOR HARR'S AMENDMENT, AM1481, IN PART DUE TO WHAT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IN RESPECTS TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET. JUST AS A COUPLE POINTS OF CLARIFICATION, SENATOR McCOY ASKED A QUESTION EARLIER, AND I WAS ABLE TO DO SOME OF THE ANALYSIS AND CALCULATIONS BY LOOKING AT THE AGENCIES AT LEAST ON SOME OF THEIR GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS. AND THE ONLY AGENCY THAT HAS A 10 PERCENT OR HIGHER GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION INCREASE AVERAGE OVER THE BIENNIUM IS THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR. THERE ARE OTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN SOME AGENCIES, AGENCY 10, THE STATE AUDITOR HAS AN INCREASE OF 6.2 PERCENT AVERAGE OVER THE BIENNIUM; THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS AN AVERAGE OF 6.3 PERCENT. OUR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS AN AVERAGE

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INCREASE OF 3.9 PERCENT; DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 5.8 PERCENT; THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES HAS AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 6.6 PERCENT; THE COMMISSION ON DEAF, HARD OF HEARING HAS AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 8.1 PERCENT; AND THE TAX EQUALIZATION REVIEW COMMISSION, BETTER KNOWN AS TERC, HAS AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 7.2 PERCENT. THOSE WERE ARGUABLY SOME OF THE LARGER INCREASES THAT I WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY. YES, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS NOT ONE OF THE LARGER INCREASES. BUT I DID WANT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE, WHILE I KNOW THERE'S NO DOUBT SOME PEOPLE IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHO ARE WONDERING WHY I WAS JUST SINGLING OUT THEIR BRANCH, I DID WANT TO GIVE A GENERAL PERSPECTIVE OF WHERE OUR BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE AVERAGE BIENNIAL INCREASE DUE TO GENERAL FUNDS. HOPEFULLY THAT CLARIFIES, I THINK, SOME OF SENATOR McCOY'S QUESTIONS THAT I WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER EARLIER ON THE MIKE. IN THE RESPECT THOUGH TO WHAT SENATOR HARR HAD RAISE IN REGARDS TO AM1481, THE COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED OBVIOUSLY THE UNIQUE REQUEST THAT CAME FORWARD. IT WAS A GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE. AND, YES, WHILE THIS IS A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN REGARDS TO THE GOVERNOR'S OPERATING BUDGET, I WOULD POINT OUT THE FACT THOUGH THAT UNDER PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS, IT WOULD NOT SHOCK ANYONE THAT THESE POSITIONS THAT WERE REQUESTED UNDER GOVERNOR RICKETTS' BUDGET PROPOSAL COULD HAVE EASILY BEEN HID, COLLEAGUES, IN SOME OTHER STATE AGENCY. HE COULD HAVE EASILY HID THESE TWO POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A SMALL BLIP IN REGARDS TO SOMETIMES THE BIGGER BUDGET DEBATE. AND AS I HAD SAID EARLY IN THE SESSION, I APPLAUDED GOVERNOR RICKETTS FOR AT LEAST COMING OUT AND BEING VERY TRANSPARENT IN REGARDS TO HIS BUDGET REQUEST OF WHAT HE WAS ASKING FOR IN THESE TWO POSITIONS WHERE IN, LIKE I SAY, IN PAST BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN EASY SCENARIO FOR A GOVERNOR SIMPLY TO HIDE ONE POSITION IN DAS, MAYBE HIDE ANOTHER POSITION IN DED OR IN SOME OTHER AGENCY. AND GOVERNOR RICKETTS CHOSE NOT TO DO THAT. TO SOME EXTENT THAT WAS A CONSIDERATION THAT WE HAD TALKED ABOUT IN THE APPROPRIATION'S COMMITTEE PROCESS, THAT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WE WANTED TO RECOGNIZE THE TRANSPARENCY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS UTILIZING TO BRING THESE POSITIONS FORWARD. WE HAD ALSO HAD SOME GENERAL DISCUSSIONS THOUGH, COLLEAGUES, IN REGARDS TO WHAT THESE POSITIONS DO AND WHAT THEY WERE INTENDED TO DO, AS WELL AS ASKING FOR JOB DESCRIPTIONS. I KNOW A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, SENATOR STINNER, HAD RAISED SOME GOOD QUESTIONS WITHIN OUR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION. WE AS A

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COMMITTEE REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND WE RECEIVED THAT INFORMATION NOT JUST AT THE PUBLIC HEARING BUT AFTERWARDS. AND THERE WAS SOME WORTHWHILE, THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATIONS THAT WE HAD IN DISCUSSIONS WE HAD REGARDING THESE POSITIONS IN THE CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS. ARE THESE POSITIONS GOING TO BE NEEDED IN THE LONG TERM FOR EVERY GOVERNOR? THAT'S A CONSIDERATION ARGUABLY THAT LEGISLATURES IN THE FUTURE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER, BUT AT LEAST OVER THIS BIENNIUM THESE TWO POSITIONS WERE CONSIDERED, WE DID APPROPRIATE THE FUNDING FOR IT. AND AS I SAID BOTH EARLIER DURING THE PRELIMINARY PROCESS AND AS I SAY TODAY... [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ...IT WAS, I BELIEVE, AN APPROPRIATE PATH AND AN APPROPRIATE REQUEST THE GOVERNOR HAD MADE TO ASK FOR THESE POSITIONS WITHIN HIS SPECIFIC AGENCY INSTEAD OF SOMEHOW BEING, YOU KNOW, IN SOME REGARD BEING ABLE TO PUT THESE REQUESTS IN SOME OTHER AGENCY, OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND, THAT WOULD NOT HAVE DRAWN THE LIGHT OF DAY. I BELIEVE GOVERNOR RICKETTS HAD MADE THE APPROPRIATE REQUEST OF HIGHLIGHTING IT IN HIS AGENCY AND, YES, WE HAD FUNDED IT BOTH IN THE PRELIMINARY AND IN OUR FINAL RECOMMENDATION. AND I STAND IN OPPOSITION TO SENATOR HARR'S AM1481. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I REALIZE THAT SENATOR BURKE HARR'S AMENDMENT, AM1481, WAS MADE WITH HIS TONGUE PRETTY CLOSE TO HIS CHEEK. BUT, COLLEAGUES, HE MENTIONED THEY NEED JEANS, THEY NEED HAIRCUTS, THOUGH THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN HERE NEED HAIRCUTS WORSE THAN OTHERS. BUT, COLLEAGUES, LOOK WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. IS THAT A GOVERNMENT POSITION? WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF HAIRCUTS NOW AND JEANS. WHERE ARE WE GOING? I UNDERSTAND SENATOR HARR'S FRUSTRATION THAT THE GOVERNOR VETOED A BILL THAT HE SUPPORTED. THAT'S AN \$8 MILLION SAVINGS. I'M GOING TO SUPPORT THAT VETO. WE JUST HAD ANOTHER \$8 MILLION WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE THAT WAS GOING TO GO TO CREIGHTON. WELL, WE CAN'T DO THAT, WE'VE DISCOVERED, SO

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LET'S FIND ANOTHER WAY TO SPEND IT. YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNOR'S VETO MAY SAVE US \$8 MILLION. HERE'S ANOTHER \$8 MILLION WE COULD JUST STICK IN THE BANK, BUT WE WON'T. SENATOR GROENE, WELCOME TO THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE. YOU WILL BE MORE FRUSTRATED AS YOU GO ALONG AS YOU WATCH US THROW \$8-10-15 MILLION, AT PIE-IN-THE-SKY IDEAS. WELL, THIS MIGHT SAVE US A FEW DOLLARS DOWN THE ROAD, SO LET'S THROW A BUNCH OF MONEY AT IT NOW. AFTER ALL, THE TAXPAYERS HAVE PLENTY; LET'S TAKE SOME MORE FROM THEM. MR. PRESIDENT, I'D YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR GROENE IF HE COULD USE IT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR GROENE, 3:00. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. BLOOMFIELD, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. BUT YOU ARE A MISTER, TOO, AND A GENTLEMAN. LIKE I SAID, I'M JUST FRUSTRATED. I LOOK THROUGH THIS BUDGET AND I'M PRETTY GOOD WITH BUDGETS, BUT MONEY EVERYWHERE. I COULD JUST STOP AT ANY PAGE-- UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, ADMINISTRATIVE, \$575 MILLION HERE, BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS/FUNDS, I GUESS THAT'S INCOME, \$257 (SIC). HOW DID WE EVER GET HERE, I MEAN, OVER THE YEARS? EVERYBODY HAS A BRIGHTER IDEA AND WE ADD ANOTHER LAYER. BUT, REMEMBER, ALL THOSE LAYERS YOU'VE ADDED, THERE'S ALREADY BEEN THREE OR FOUR LAYERS BEFORE. IT'S JUST LIKE THE DENTAL BILL. THERE'S MEDICAID, THERE'S TAXI SERVICE, THERE'S MEDICARE, THERE'S INSURANCE PLANS, THERE'S OBAMACARE THAT SAYS EVERYBODY HAS GOT TO BE COVERED. BUT YET WE HAVE THIS BIG HOLE OUT HERE THAT WE NEED \$8 MILLION FROM A WEALTHY, PRIVATE UNIVERSITY TO SUPPLY DENTAL CARE THAT NOBODY TOLD...I TRIP OVER DENTISTS IN LINCOLN, I MEAN IN LINCOLN COUNTY. THEY'RE EVERYWHERE. THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE AND THEY ALL MAKE A GOOD LIVING. BUT APPARENTLY SOMEBODY FOUND OUT WE NEED THEM, WE NEED MORE OF THEM, AND A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY CAN'T PAY FOR THAT. BUT YET I HEAR PEOPLE TELLING ME THAT THEY CAN'T AFFORD THEIR PROPERTY TAXES. I TALKED TO A GENTLEMAN WHO OWNS A MOVING SERVICE IN NORTH PLATTE AND A LOT OF THE...WHAT'S SAD, IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD TO MOVE. IT'S THE HIGHER MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE. MAYBE THE DENTIST INSTRUCTOR AT CREIGHTON. THEY CAN AFFORD TO MOVE AND THEY GO TO MISSOURI WHERE PROPERTY TAXES...A LOT OF FOLKS TOLD ME THEY GO TO MISSOURI. THEY'RE RATED SEVENTH IN THE NATION. ARIZONA IS SIX, YOU HEAR A LOT OF FOLKS GO THERE. LET ME SEE, NEVADA, NINTH. NORTH DAKOTA, A LOT OF FOLKS, YOUNG WORKING PEOPLE. WE CAN'T FIND WORKING PEOPLE. THEY'RE GOING TO NORTH DAKOTA BECAUSE THEY GOT VERY LOW INCOME TAXES AND VERY LOW PROPERTY TAXES. BUT UTAH IS

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FOURTH. WE'RE 39th. BUT THE FOLKS WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE...I'M STARTING TO BECOME A DEMOCRAT, I THINK, BECAUSE WE'VE SEEN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. THAT'S WHO THEY TAKE CARE OF ANYMORE THAN THEY DO THE POOR. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: BUT, ANYWAY, THAT'S JUST THE PERCEPTION I'VE SEEN. ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT TO SAY NO, FOLKS. WE'VE GOT A 6.1 PERCENT INCREASE THE FIRST YEAR AND A 4.1 THE SECOND YEAR, 5.1. I LOOKED UP THE INFLATION RATE. IT'S ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF A PERCENT, GROWTH RATE IS ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF PERCENT, POPULATION GROWTH. THAT'S A PERCENT AND A HALF. NOW THAT'S NORMALLY WHAT YOU WOULD TAKE AS A GAUGE HOW WE NEED TO INCREASE SPENDING. BUT, NO, WE'RE 6.1 AND 4.1 BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO...SOMEBODY DECIDED WE'VE GOT A DENTIST PROBLEM. FIRST NEWS I HEARD OF IT UNTIL I STOOD IN HERE AND SOMEBODY TOLD ME WE HAD THAT PROBLEM. IMAGINE HOW MUCH AN AFFLUENT SOCIETY WE ARE THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT? ANYWAY, I'M DONE. THANK YOU, CHAIR. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOSH, SENATOR GROENE IS GOING TO BECOME A DEMOCRAT? IS THAT WHAT I HEARD JUST A MINUTE AGO? WOW! I JUST WANT...I WAS AMISS BECAUSE I DIDN'T THANK, AND HE'S NOT HERE, BUT ALSO SENATOR McCOY WAS HELPFUL IN HELPING US TO FIGURE OUT SOME COMMON GROUND ON THAT PUBLIC-PRIVATE SCHOOL ISSUE. SO SINCE SENATOR McCOY IS NOT HERE, I'LL DEFER MY TIME TO THE NEW PROSPECTIVE DEMOCRAT, SENATOR GROENE. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR GROENE, YOU'VE JUST BEEN YIELDED 4:23 IF YOU BECOME A DEMOCRAT. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: HEY, I'M NOT FILIBUSTERING ANYTHING, GUYS. (LAUGHTER) SO, ANYWAY, I'M JUST HERE WHINING AS A TAXPAYER. BUT MY FAMILY IS GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY I'VE DONE IT HERE INSTEAD OF ON MOTHER'S DAY DINNER TABLE. BUT GOT IT OFF MY CHEST. BUT ANYWAY, FOLKS, WE NEED TO...NO, I'M NOT GOING TO BECOME A DEMOCRAT, BUT I...THEY DON'T WANT ME. (LAUGHTER) BUT I MIGHT VOTE FOR ONE ONCE IN A WHILE ANY MORE THE WAY

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THINGS ARE GOING. BUT I CAN DO THAT SECRETLY. (LAUGHTER) ANYWAY BUT, FOLKS, WE'VE GOT TO THINK HARDER AND THINK ABOUT OUR OWN PERSONAL BUDGETS, OUR FAMILIES, THE AMERICAN DREAM, THE PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY CREATE WEALTH, THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE CARE OF THEIR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND THEY TRY NOT TO BE A BURDEN ON THEIR NEIGHBORS. THAT'S WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT. THAT'S WHAT NEBRASKA USED TO BE ALL ABOUT. AND THIS KIND OF STUFF WE'VE GOT TO QUIT. I DON'T, BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE KIND TO SOMEBODY OR SOMEBODY ELSE'S BILL AND WE DON'T WANT TO HURT THEIR FEELINGS. WELL, I'M GOING TO HURT A LOT OF YOU GUYS' FEELINGS, BUT WE'LL STILL BE FRIENDS AS LONG AS I'M IN HERE. SO REALLY I'VE GOT NOT MUCH MORE TO SAY, BUT SENATOR CHAMBERS AND I ARE ON THE SAME PAGE ON THIS ONE. BUT HE'S NOT A DEMOCRAT EITHER. SO, ANYWAY, THANKS FOR THE TIME. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE AND SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. YOU KNOW, SENATOR GROENE'S COMMENTS WERE RIGHT THAT, YEAH, THERE IS MEDICAID AND MEDICAID DOES COVER DENTAL SERVICES. BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, IN NEBRASKA THERE ARE ABOUT 230,000 NEBRASKANS THAT REMAIN UNINSURED DESPITE OBAMACARE. SOME OF THEM ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CURRENT PROGRAMS, BUT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THEM, AT LEAST HALF OF THOSE, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE PARTLY DUE TO OUR INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO EXPAND THE MEDICAID PROGRAM TO COVER THEM. SO THERE ARE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN OUR STATE, INCLUDING...YES, THANK YOU, INCLUDING IN SENATOR GROENE'S COUNTY OF LINCOLN COUNTY, 11 PERCENT OF HIS COUNTY IS UNINSURED. THAT MEANS THEY ARE...MANY OF THEM ARE LOW-INCOME WORKING ADULTS WHO ARE TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO PIECE TOGETHER THEIR HEALTHCARE. THE MEDICAID PROGRAM DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR EVERY SINGLE LOW-INCOME PERSON. AND THAT'S A CRITICAL PIECE TO REMEMBER WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND HEALTHCARE ACCESS. AS FAR AS THE CONCEPT OF, I HEARD A NUMBER OF PEOPLE SAY, WE DON'T HAVE A DENTAL SHORTAGE. WELL, THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, YES, WE DO. THE STATISTICS ARE CLEAR. THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IS ABOUT ONE DENTIST FOR 1,300 TO 1,500 INDIVIDUALS. WE HAVE DOZENS OF COUNTIES THAT FAR EXCEED THAT. WE HAVE SOME COUNTIES THAT DO HAVE A DENTIST, BUT IT'S ONE DENTIST IN THAT COUNTY TO 6,000 RESIDENTS. ANOTHER COUNTY IS ONE TO 6,500 RESIDENTS. CLEARLY, WE HAVE UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN NEBRASKA. AS FAR AS, YOU KNOW, THE INVESTMENT,

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SENATOR GROENE MADE THIS SOUND LIKE IT'S JUST A GIVEAWAY FOR THEM TO BUILD A BUILDING. THIS IS, AS WE'VE TALKED MANY TIMES, A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WHERE THE INSTITUTION ITSELF WILL HAVE TO RAISE SIGNIFICANT MONEY. LIKELY, THE PROJECT WILL BE AN \$80 MILLION PROJECT. AND THIS IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF IT TO ENSURE THAT THE CLINIC SPACE THAT IS SERVING MANY OF THOSE UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT, MAKING SURE THAT THEY HAVE ACCESS TO CRITICAL ORAL HEALTHCARE. THIS IS GOING TO BE AN AMAZING PLUS FOR DOWNTOWN AND SOUTH OMAHA, I CERTAINLY THINK ALL OF EAST OMAHA. AND THE SERVICES THAT ARE BEING PROVIDED TO THOSE CORE COMMUNITIES CANNOT BE FILLED BY ANY OTHER PROVIDER IN THE COMMUNITY. THERE JUST IS NOT ANYWHERE NEAR THAT LEVEL OF CAPACITY. THIS, AGAIN, IS A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT, UNLIKE INVESTMENTS IN A LOT OF OTHER AREAS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT HAVE PERPETUAL ONGOING DRAINS ON OUR STATE BUDGET. THIS IS A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT WHERE WE CAN GIVE A BOOST TO THE ORAL HEALTHCARE WORK FORCE IN OUR STATE. THANK YOU. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. SENATOR HARR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED, SENATOR BURKE HARR. [LB657]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, SENATOR OR MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW, HERE I AM TALKING ABOUT A SERIOUS ISSUE, AND THAT IS HOW DO WE FUND OUR GOVERNMENT. AND IT KIND OF GETS OFF ON TANGENTS AND THAT IT'S GROWING TOO QUICKLY. AND WE HAVE ONE AREA THAT'S GROWING AT 19 PERCENT AND IT'S KIND OF HANDS-OFF. NO ONE WANTS TO TOUCH IT. WELL, I'LL TOUCH IT. HOW CAN WE LOOK OURSELVES IN THE MIRROR AND TALK ABOUT GROWING ONE OFFICE 19 PERCENT AND WE HAVE THE POOREST OF THE POOR THAT WE'RE THUMBING OUR NOSES AT? WE HAVE A WAY TO PAY FOR IT. IT'S DISINGENUOUS TO SAY THIS IS NOT SUSTAINABLE. WE KNOW HOW TO PAY FOR 2021. WE CAN DEAL WITH IT THEN IF THAT'S AN ISSUE. BUT WHY WE WOULDN'T TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE MONEY THAT IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, AND NO ONE WILL DENY THAT, FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR. I THINK WHAT THEIR FEAR IS, IS THAT, GOSH, WHEN THEY'RE THAT POOR, YOU REALLY CAN'T TAKE ANY MONEY AWAY FROM THEM. AND THE ANSWER IS, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. I MEAN, THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HAND TO MOUTH, WHO HAVE NOTHING EXTRA. SHOULD WE BUY THEIR HAIRCUTS AND THEIR JEANS? I DON'T KNOW. I DO FOR MY THREE-YEAR-OLD, BUT I'M ABLE TO. YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE THREE YEARS OLD, THERE IS NO ONE ELSE OUT THERE. YOU CANNOT WORK. YOUR JOB NEEDS TO BE PREPARING YOURSELF FOR KINDERGARTEN. IT SHOULDN'T BE FINDING A WAY TO EAT. YOU HAVE FOOD STAMPS. THOSE...I WOULD CHALLENGE

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ANYONE TO TRY TO LIVE ON FOOD STAMPS FOR A MONTH, LET ALONE A LIFETIME. I WOULD CHALLENGE ANYONE TO LIVE AS THESE INDIVIDUALS DO IN EXTREME POVERTY. I DID. A YEAR OUT OF COLLEGE, I DID A PROGRAM CALLED JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS. AND I WORKED IN AN AGENCY THAT SOMEWHAT WAS A PREDECESSOR TO WHAT WELFARE REFORM BECAME. FOLKS, IT'S NOT AN EASY LIVING. AND THAT WAS...I DID IT 20 YEARS AGO. IT'S BEEN 30 YEARS SINCE THESE PEOPLE HAVE SEEN ANY EXTRA MONEY. YOU MIGHT WANT TO CALL IT DISPOSABLE INCOME, I DON'T KNOW. EVEN IT IS, THAT'S NOT A LOT. YOU'RE STILL NOT GUARANTEED A PLACE TO LIVE. YOU MIGHT QUALIFY FOR SECTION 8 HOUSING, BUT NOT RIGHT AWAY. AND THERE'S MORE NEED THAN THERE ARE SECTION 8 COUPONS AVAILABLE. THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER. YOU KNOW, WE GROW THE BUDGET AND WE SAY IT'S NOT OUR MONEY, AND YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY. BUT WHAT WE DO HAVE IS A RESPONSIBILITY ON HOW TO SPEND THAT MONEY. AND MAYBE MY CORE VALUES DIFFER FROM YOURS, BUT THE FIRST THING WE HAVE TO DO IS TAKE CARE OF THOSE IN OUR SOCIETY WHO CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. AND THAT'S THE KIDS WHO, THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN, YOU KNOW, WERE BORN INTO POVERTY. BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD, THERE GO ALL OF US. AND I DID IT VOLUNTARILY FOR A YEAR AND IT WAS HARD. AND I'LL BE HONEST, I CHEATED, IF NO OTHER WAY MENTALLY BECAUSE I KNEW IN A YEAR I'D BE OUT OF IT. THESE PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE AN OUT. AND SO WE HAVE A BUDGET WE'RE INCREASING, AND WE HAVE THIS LETTER THAT SAYS YOU'RE WILLING TO WORK WITH US. AND I APPRECIATE THAT AND I HOPE HE WILL. I HOPE WE REALLY DO SOMETHING ON LB89. BUT WE'VE GOT TO PRIORITIZE WHAT WE'RE DOING, AND WE CAN'T JUST SAY WE'RE GROWING GOVERNMENT 3 PERCENT, BUT FOR ME I CAN GROW 19. WHOA, WHOA, WHOA. LAW IS FOR SOMEONE ELSE, LAW IS NOT FOR ME. YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ON THIS SACRIFICE, REAL LEADERSHIP IS STARTING WITH YOURSELF. REAL DISCIPLINE IS STARTING WITH YOURSELF, AND THEN LOOKING AT OTHERS AND MAKING SURE THAT THOSE WHO ARE LEAST VULNERABLE...OR MOST VULNERABLE, LEAST ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES GET IN LINE FIRST... [LB657 LB89]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU...NOT GET IN LINE LAST AND I GET MINE FIRST AND I GET TO GROW MY BUDGET AND I GET TO HAVE A COO AND A NEW HR DIRECTOR EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE A DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES THAT I THINK IS SUPPOSED TO BE DOING HR WORK. IT'S NOT A CRITICISM. IT'S JUST AN ANALYSIS OF WHAT'S GOING ON. AND SO I REALLY LIKE THIS GUY, THIS NEW GOVERNOR. I THINK PERSONALLY HE'S A VERY GOOD GUY. I

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THINK HE HAS HIS HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE. I'M DISAPPOINTED, VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THIS ACTION ON LB89. AND MAYBE I'LL BE PROVEN WRONG. BUT WITH THAT, I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD AND WITHDRAW MY AMENDMENT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657 LB89]

SENATOR KRIST: WITHOUT OBJECTION, IT'S WITHDRAWN. ITEMS FOR THE RECORD, MR. CLERK? [LB657]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB287, LB541, LB195, LB511, LB422, SELECT FILE. RESOLUTIONS: LR221, SENATOR CRAWFORD, LR222, AND LR223. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1343-1345.) [LB287 LB541 LB195 LB511 LB422 LR221 LR222 LR223]

MR. PRESIDENT, THE NEXT AMENDMENT WITH RESPECT TO LB657, SENATOR GROENE, AM1469. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1345-1346.) [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MY AMENDMENT, AM1469, DEALS WITH THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE. I TALKED TO SENATOR MELLO AND SENATOR KUEHN WHO'S SPONSORED IT. MY AMENDMENT STRIKES IT OUT OF THE BUDGET. I HAD SOME CONCERNS ABOUT IT. IN THE BOOK, THE BUDGET BOOK, IT SAYS THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE, FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED TO SUPPORT THE YEUTTER INSTITUTION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE TO EXPAND INTERNATIONAL COMPONENT FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS BY SUPPORTING ENDOWED CHAIRS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. FUNDS ARE TO BE MATCHED AT LEAST \$2,500,000 OF PRIVATE FUNDS. THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE ARE TO BE USED, ADMINISTERED, AND INVESTED IN SUCH A MANNER AS THE BOARD OF REGENTS DETERMINES PROVIDED SUCH FUNDS ARE INVESTED AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION...WITH ONLY THE INCOME EXPENDED BY ENDOWED CHAIRS. IN AMENDMENT AM829, THE LANGUAGE IS THERE IS INCLUDED IN THE APPROPRIATION TO THIS PROGRAM \$1,250,000 GENERAL FUNDS FOR '15-16 AND \$1,250,000 GENERAL FUNDS FOR '16-17 FOR THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE. IT IS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE SHALL BE USED, ADMINISTERED, AND INVESTED IN SUCH MANNER AS THE BOARD OF REGENTS...IT GOES ON. THERE'S NO MENTION OF

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MATCHING FUNDS. NORMALLY IN GOVERNMENT, AT LEAST THE ONES THAT ARE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE, WHEN THIS KIND OF A SITUATION COMES UP, THE PRIVATE FUNDING MATCHING HAS TO BE RAISED FIRST. IT'S IN THE BOOK. IT'S NOT IN THE LEGISLATION. IT DOESN'T MENTION THE MATCHING FUNDS. AND I WAS TOLD BY SENATOR KUEHN THAT THE MONEY IS ALREADY THERE. BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT MONEY IS PRIVATE FUNDS, IT'S NOT DRAWN OUT OF AN ACCOUNT OF TAX DOLLARS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA THAT THEY GOT IT FROM US AND, THEREFORE, THEY GOT IT FROM THE TAXPAYER. I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDS, BUT IT'S NOT IN THE BILL. IT'S NOT IN THE BILL AT ALL THAT THEY HAVE TO MATCH IT. I DON'T SEE THE NEED FOR THAT. THIS IDEA OF MATCHING, IF SOMEBODY BELIEVES IN THAT, A PRIVATE PHILANTHROPIST OR I DON'T KNOW IF IT COMES FROM MR. YEUTTER HIMSELF, IT PROBABLY DOES. IF HE WANTS THAT TO EXIST, THEN HE SHOULD PAY FOR IT. I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT. MY TAXPAYERS DIDN'T ASK FOR IT. THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA DIDN'T ASK FOR IT. I'M ASSUMING SOME INDIVIDUAL CAME TO THE UNIVERSITY AND WANTED TO FUND A CHAIR. LET THEM DO IT. LET THEM FUND IT. LET'S PUT THEIR NAME ON IT SO THEY CAN LIVE IN "PERPETUALITY." THEIR NAME CAN BE OUT ON A BUILDING OR SOMETHING. THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO MATCH IT. TWO-AND-A-HALF MILLION DOLLARS, HOW MANY EMPLOYEES ARE INVOLVED IN THIS? HOW MUCH TRAVEL EXPENSES ARE INVOLVED IN THIS TO HAVE A \$5 MILLION BUDGET? UNLESS THIS IS ONE OF THEM ENDOWMENT DEALS WHERE THEY ONLY LIVE OFF THE INTEREST AND THAT MONEY JUST SITS THERE. WELL, THAT WAS MONEY CREATED AND PAID BY TAXPAYERS THAT COULD USE IT FOR SOMETHING ELSE. I ALWAYS GO BACK WHEN I THINK OF THE UNIVERSITY, IT'S A LAND GRANT COLLEGE. IF YOU LOOK UP THE DEFINITION OF A LAND GRANT COLLEGE, IT'S AN EXTENSION SERVICE, IT'S FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. AND YOU COULD CLAIM THIS IS FOR TRADE OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS, BUT IT'S A NICE IDEA. IT'S A DEFINITION OF A UNIVERSITY TO HAVE CHAIRS, ENDOWED CHAIRS, BUT WHY DOES THE TAXPAYER HAVE TO PAY FOR HALF OF IT? TWO-AND-A-HALF MILLION ALONE SHOULD ENDOW THAT CHAIR IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ONE PROFESSOR THAT HAS TENURE, BECAUSE USUALLY THAT'S WHAT A CHAIR IS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR IT. PLUS, I DON'T LIKE THIS LANGUAGE. LET'S PROVE THE \$2.5 MILLION THERE. THAT'S WHAT WE WERE TOLD. THAT'S WHAT I UNDERSTOOD IT TO BE. BUT SOMEHOW IT GOT...I'VE TALKED TO SENATOR MELLO ABOUT IT AND HE ADMITS SOMETHING WENT WRONG THERE. AND I BELIEVE HE'S GOING TO TRY TO FIX IT. BUT I WOULD JUST AS SOON STRIKE THE LANGUAGE. IF WE'VE GOT \$2.5 MILLION COMING FROM A PRIVATE INVESTOR, PUT THEIR NAME ON IT AND HIRE SOME PROFESSOR OR SOME GRADUATE STUDENT AND, BY GOD, YOU'VE GOT A CHAIR FOR THE YEUTTER

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INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE. IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS AGAIN, FOLKS, WE'RE 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE, FOLKS. WE'RE TRYING TO COMPETE WITH OHIO, THE HARVARDS. YOU KNOW, IF WE FOCUSED ON AGRICULTURE AT OUR UNIVERSITY AND FOUND A NEW VARIETY OF WHEAT WE COULD FEED THE WORLD, A NEW CHEMICAL THAT HELPED MAKE AGRICULTURE MORE EFFICIENT. BUT AS FAR AS TRADE, AS FAR AS FINDING A CURE FOR CANCER, YOU KNOW, STANFORD, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, HARVARD, THEY MIGHT FIND THAT CURE. AND THEY WILL LET US USE IT IN NEBRASKA. BUT THEY WON'T FIND ANOTHER WHEAT VARIETY. THEY DON'T CARE. WE'RE A LAND GRANT COLLEGE. WE'RE TOO BIG FOR OUR BRITCHES. THE BUDGET IS TOO HIGH. LAST I SEEN, WE WERE THIRD OR FOURTH IN THE NATION PER CAPITA FUNDING FOR OUR UNIVERSITY, TAX DOLLARS, THIRD OR FOURTH IN THE NATION. WE MIGHT BE HIGHER. THAT WAS THE NUMBER THREE YEARS AGO. WHY? SURE, I'M PROUD OF IT, THE UNIVERSITY. I WENT THERE. I GRADUATED FROM IT. BUT IT SHOULD SERVE THE PEOPLE. IT SHOULD SERVE THE TAXPAYERS. ITS MISSION SHOULD BE TO EDUCATE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SO THEY CAN MAKE A LIVING MAYBE AS A DENTIST, MAYBE AS AN AGRONOMIST. BUT I SEE MORE OR MORE OF THIS, I CALL IT A WINE AND CHEESE PARTY ISSUES WHERE EVERYBODY RUBS ELBOWS, DRINKS SOME WINE AND CHEESE, AND TRIES TO COMPARE THEMSELVES TO HARVARD. WELL, I'M JUST A PLAIN GUY IN NEBRASKA AND THAT'S WHY I LIVE HERE. MOST TAXPAYERS ARE TOO. WE DON'T RUN AROUND AT A WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND DON'T GET ALL EXCITED IF WE'RE RATED FIFTH IN THE NATION IN SOME KIND OF DEPARTMENT. WE JUST WANT OUR CHILDREN TO GET AN EDUCATION AND BACHELOR'S DEGREE SO THEY CAN GO ABOUT THEIR LIVES. SO I'M NOT IMPRESSED AT ALL, I'M SORRY, THAT SOMEBODY WANTS TO START AN INSTITUTE. AND I DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST SENATOR KUEHN FOR DOING IT. BUT I DON'T WANT TO PAY, I DON'T WANT MY CHILDREN TO PAY, I DON'T WANT MY TAXPAYERS TO PAY \$2.5 MILLION OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS TO START THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE CHAIR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. BUT, ANYWAY, COULD I ASK SENATOR MELLO A QUESTION? [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: RUMOR HAS IT YOU'VE DROPPED AN AMENDMENT TO FIX THIS, AND... [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: I DON'T KNOW IF...SENATOR GROENE, I DON'T KNOW IF RUMOR HAS IT. I THINK I HAVE DROPPED AN AMENDMENT THAT'S AVAILABLE ON OUR COMPUTERS. AND I WAS GOING TO TALK ON THAT TO THANK YOU, AND THE FISCAL OFFICE THANKS YOU AS WELL, IN REGARDS TO IT'S LISTED IN OUR BOOK, SPECIFICALLY IN THE BUDGET BOOK, THAT THIS WAS PART OF THE ORIGINAL BILL THAT WAS BROUGHT TO THE COMMITTEE, THAT IT WAS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE. IN REGARDS TO THAT LANGUAGE, WHEN WE TRANSFERRED THAT LANGUAGE FROM THE INDIVIDUAL BILL TO THE BUDGET BILL, WE HAD ACCIDENTALLY FORGOTTEN THAT COMPONENT OF THE LANGUAGE. IT WAS A SLIGHT OVERSIGHT ON OUR PART. I HAD DRAFTED AN AMENDMENT WITH THE FISCAL OFFICE TO ADD THAT TO THE UNDERLYING BUDGET BILL TO KEEP IT, THE FAITH, IN REGARDS TO WHAT WE HAD VOTED IN COMMITTEE. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: EXCUSE ME. AND THE AMENDMENT IS WRITTEN SO THAT THAT MONEY HAS TO BE RAISED FIRST BEFORE WE MATCH IT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: IT IS TO SAY THAT THEY CANNOT RECEIVE THE MONEY UNTIL THE PRIVATE MATCH HAS BEEN SECURED, CORRECT. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: AND IT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT'S BEEN DONE ALREADY AND IT'S IN A SEPARATE FUND AND THE SOURCE IS? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THERE HAS BEEN PUBLIC...THERE'S BEEN A NEWS RELEASE THAT WAS RELEASED FROM THE UNIVERSITY AFTER WE HAD ALREADY KIND OF WENT THROUGH THIS PROCESS THAT THEY HAD SECURED INITIAL FUNDING, PRIVATE FUNDING FOR THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE THAT WAS BASED IN PART IN REGARDS TO THE BILL THAT WAS BROUGHT TO THE COMMITTEE BY SENATOR KUEHN. MY UNDERSTANDING, I KNOW SENATOR KUEHN IS GOING TO SPEAK TO IT AS WELL, IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT TO DATE THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO RAISE THAT \$2.5 MILLION AND MAYBE A LITTLE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THAT \$2.5 MILLION MATCH THAT'S NEEDED. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: WERE THOSE...SINCE WE DIDN'T PASS ANYTHING AND WE JUST CAME UP WITH THIS IN THE LAST FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS, WAS THAT MONEY CONTINGENT ON THAT WE HAD TO MATCH IT OR DO THEY HAVE MONEY IN PLACE ALREADY? [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR GROENE, MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT IT WAS CONTINGENT UPON CREATING THIS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BILL THAT SENATOR KUEHN HAD BROUGHT TO THE LEGISLATURE. AND AS THAT BILL WAS BROUGHT FORWARD AND WE STARTED TO INCORPORATE THAT, THE UNIVERSITY HAD ESSENTIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THIS. AS WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE OUR MATCH IN REGARDS TO THIS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, THAT THEY WERE ASKING THE STATE TO FULFILL ITS MATCH THAT WAS BROUGHT TO THE COMMITTEE. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU. ANYWAY, I'LL SPEAK FURTHER ON IT LATER. BUT IF THEY'VE ALREADY GIVEN THE MONEY, WHY ARE WE MATCHING IT? APPARENTLY SOMEBODY WANTS THIS DONE. THEY WERE WILLING TO GIVE THE MONEY. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE TAXPAYER HAS TO MATCH IT. BUT I UNDERSTAND WHERE SENATOR KUEHN COMES FROM ON IT. I UNDERSTAND WHERE SENATOR MELLO COMES FROM IT. I'M NOT CRITICIZING THEM. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB657]

SENATOR GROENE: I JUST HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT. THANK YOU. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE AND SENATOR MELLO. THOSE STILL WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE: SENATOR GLOOR, KUEHN, AND MELLO. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD AFTERNOON, MOVING INTO EVENING, SENATORS. WE'VE TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT TAXPAYERS AND TAXPAYERS BEING CHALLENGED TO PAY FOR A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS. I'D LIKE TO CHANGE THE DIALOGUE JUST A LITTLE BIT AND TALK ABOUT TAX RELIEF AND WONDER IF SENATOR MELLO WOULD YIELD FOR A SECOND. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB657]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU JUST ABOUT GOT AWAY FROM ME THERE. I'M GLAD WE GOT YOU REELED BACK IN. THE BUDGET INCLUDES PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FUND...PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, DOES IT NOT? AND WHERE DO WE FIND THAT IN THE BOOK? AND COULD YOU TALK JUST A

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LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT, BECAUSE THEN I WANT TO PARALLEL IT WITH OTHER THINGS GOING ON. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: I WILL ABSOLUTELY DO MY BEST, SENATOR GLOOR. IF YOU LOOK TO PAGE 130 IN YOUR BUDGET BOOK, IT IS THE STATE AID COMPONENTS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGENCY 16. AND IF YOU LOOK HALFWAY DOWN THE PAGE, IT INCLUDES INITIALLY A \$45 MILLION CASH FUND APPROPRIATION THAT WAS PART OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION, \$45 MILLION GOING TO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FUND. YOU CAN SEE BELOW IT, IT WAS AN INCREASE OF AN ADDITIONAL \$15 MILLION EACH YEAR TO BRING A TOTAL TO \$60 MILLION EACH YEAR TO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FUND. ALSO, IF YOU WOULD TURN TO PAGE 68 OF YOUR BUDGET BOOK, THERE GIVES A HISTORY AND EXPLANATION OF WHERE THOSE PROPERTY TAX CREDITS GO. I KNOW SENATOR NORDQUIST HAD BROUGHT THIS UP EARLIER THIS MORNING IN RESPECTS TO WHERE THE BREAKDOWN HAPPENS, SO TO SPEAK, IN REGARD TO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AND THE BIG TRANSITION OF WHAT WE'VE SEEN OVER ROUGHLY THE LAST NINE YEARS OF MOST OF THE CREDIT GOING TO RESIDENTIAL. NOW MOST OF THE FUNDING, OR AT LEAST THE MAJORITY OF THE FUNDING, IS NOW GOING TO AG PROPERTY. [LB657]

SENATOR GLOOR: AND COMBINED WITH WHAT WE ALREADY ALLOCATE OUR BUDGET FOR IN TERMS OF PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, THAT HAS US UP TO \$200 MILLION SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE GO FORWARD WITH WHAT'S RECOMMENDED WITHIN THIS BUDGET. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT, SENATOR GLOOR. IT WOULD BE A \$200-MILLION-A-YEAR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF CREDIT, AND THEN ARGUABLY OBVIOUSLY \$400 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM. [LB657]

SENATOR GLOOR: AND PIGGYBACKING ON THAT, SENATOR MELLO, ON THE AGENDA JUST A COUPLE OF BILLS AWAY UNDER COMMITTEE PRIORITY BILLS IS LB259, WHICH IS A BILL THAT WE BROUGHT FORWARD OUT OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, PROVIDING \$10,000 IN PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR THOSE WHO FILE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX. AND IN OUR CONVERSATIONS, WE EXPECT TO HIT THE BUDGET TO THE TUNE OF ABOUT \$16 MILLION. IT HAS BEEN THE DISCUSSION WITHIN THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AS YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT COME OUT OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME DOLLARS

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LEFT OR THERE'S BEEN AN EXPECTATION THAT SOME OF THE DOLLARS LEFT FOR THE FLOOR WOULD BE SPENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TAX RELIEF. IS THAT A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF OUR DISCUSSION? [LB657 LB259]

SENATOR MELLO: SENATOR GLOOR, THAT IS A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF OUR DISCUSSION. AND IF YOU ALLOW ME A LITTLE LEEWAY, SENATOR WATERMEIER HAD MENTIONED THIS ALSO A LITTLE BIT THIS MORNING IN RESPECTS TO THE \$49 MILLION THAT ESSENTIALLY IS ABOVE THE MINIMAL RESERVE, THAT'S \$49 MILLION LEFT FOR THE FLOOR FOR ANY REVENUE AND/OR A BILLS THAT ARE IN FRONT OF US. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OBVIOUSLY MOST MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE SESSION, IT'S BECOME AT LEAST APPARENT TO ME IN CONVERSATIONS THAT THE BODY HAS WANTED TO SEE THAT MONEY LEFT FOR THE FLOOR ADDRESS PRISON REFORM BUT ALSO TRY TO ADDRESS SOME REVENUE-RELATED BILLS. AND ARGUABLY, THE LONE PROPERTY TAX BILL THAT'S COME OUT AS ASSOCIATED IS LB259, THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX BILL. SO WHILE I, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, CANNOT... [LB657 LB259]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: ...UNILATERALLY SAY WE HAVE TO PASS LB259, OBVIOUSLY I'M SUPPORTIVE OF IT. AND I KNOW THAT IS THE LARGEST REVENUE OR TAX CUT BILL WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US OUTSIDE OF THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT. [LB657 LB259]

SENATOR GLOOR: THAT'S CORRECT. THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. I APPRECIATE THE REVIEW AND SORT OF A PRIOR ORIENTATION OF THE GROUP, THE BODY, TO WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM NEBRASKANS ABOUT WANTING TAX RELIEF, SPECIFICALLY PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, AND THE EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE NOT ONLY LAST YEAR AND THE YEAR BEFORE THAT AND THE YEAR BEFORE THAT, BUT WHAT WE HAD PUT INTO THE BUDGET THIS YEAR TO IN FACT ADDRESS WHAT WE'RE HEARING FROM PROPERTY OWNERS. THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. THANK YOU TO THE BODY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR AND SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR KUEHN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR KUEHN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND COLLEAGUES. I WOULD LIKE TO STATE MY OPPOSITION TO AM1469 BROUGHT BY SENATOR GROENE AND ADDRESS A FEW OF THE ISSUES THAT HE BROUGHT UP IN HIS OPENING WITH RESPECT TO THIS PARTICULAR COMPONENT OF THE BUDGET, THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE. THERE IS AN AMENDMENT WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWING DIRECTLY THIS, I BELIEVE IT'S AM1484, WHICH WILL BE ADDRESSING THE LANGUAGE CONCERNING THE MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE \$2.5 MILLION IN MATCHING FUNDS TO ENSURE THAT THAT IS INCLUDED IN STATUTE. TO DATE, THAT \$2.5 MILLION PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$400,000 HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED TO THIS PROJECT. SO WE HAVE ALREADY MET THAT MATCHING GOAL PLUS SOME IN ESTABLISHING THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE. I RECOGNIZE THAT SENATOR GROENE DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY SEE THE VALUE IN ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS OR EXACTLY WHAT THIS INSTITUTE COULD DO. BUT I DO WANT TO SHARE A FEW OF THE REASONS WHY I HAVE AGREED TO SUPPORT AND CARRY THIS BILL AND WHY I'M A BELIEVER THAT THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE IS ONE OF THOSE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS THAT THIS BUDGET MAKES THAT I DISCUSSED THIS MORNING ON MY INITIAL COMMENTS ON THIS BUDGET. RIGHT NOW NEBRASKA EXPORTS \$7.4 BILLION ANNUALLY--\$7.4 BILLION. IF WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE EXPORTS FROM THIS STATE BY AS LITTLE AS 10 PERCENT, THE MATH IS PRETTY EASY ON THE KIND OF ECONOMIC IMPACT THAT HAS ON OUR STATE, ON OUR STATE REVENUES, ON OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE ALL OF THE THINGS THAT SENATOR GROENE AND OTHERS IN THIS BODY HAVE ADVOCATED FOR, WHETHER THAT'S TAX RELIEF, SUPPORT FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE, INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, AND OTHERS. THE WAY IN WHICH WE MAKE GOVERNMENT BETTER IS BY GROWING WHAT WE DO IN THIS STATE. EXPORTS ARE IT. SINCE THE 2008 DOWNTURN, 30 PERCENT OF OUR NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS OCCURRED IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND EXPORT. AND IT IS FOR THAT REASON WHY THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE IS PROBABLY COMING AT ONE OF THE MOST OPPORTUNE TIMES WE HAVE FOR IMPROVING OUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPORT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF NEBRASKA PRODUCTS AND NEBRASKA SERVICES. IT'S BEEN A CLEAR PRIORITY OF THIS GOVERNOR AND ADMINISTRATION TO IMPROVE THAT INTERNATIONAL EXPORT AND IS MARKED BY THE FACT THAT THIS BUDGET ALSO INCLUDES REQUESTS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TO FUND ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE MISSIONS. AND WE'RE ALL WELL-AWARE OF HIS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL TRADE MISSION COMING THIS SUMMER. THIS IS A PRIORITY OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND THIS IS A PRIORITY OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. SO WHY ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS? THIS IS NOT BRICKS AND MORTAR. THIS IS NOT AN ONGOING

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PROGRAM WHICH IS GOING TO REQUIRE CONTINUED INVESTMENT BY THE STATE. ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS AND ENDOWMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN AN ACADEMIC SETTING, PROVIDES A VERY UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT IN INTELLECT AND IN HUMAN CAPITAL THAT HAS A VERY HIGH AND A VERY STRONG MULTIPLIER EFFECT. BY ESTABLISHING INITIALLY THE THREE ENDOWED CHAIRS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, LAW, AND FINANCE, WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS PER YEAR IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH SOME OF THE BEST INTELLECTUAL TALENT THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA CAN HIRE, WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THEIR RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION ON AREAS THAT WILL EXPAND AND IMPROVE OUR EXPORTS. AND IT'S NAMED IN HONOR OF CLAYTON YEUTTER WHO I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE, AFTER WORKING AS AN ADVISER TO TWO PRESIDENTS, SERVING AS U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, SERVING AS U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, SERVING AS HEAD OF THE CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE, HE DEMONSTRATES THAT ONE PERSON CAN BE A GAME CHANGER IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. THIS HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE HUNDREDS OF UNDERGRADUATES THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING EVERY YEAR. AND IT ONLY TAKES ONE OR TWO OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON OUR EXPORTS, TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMY. THIS IS A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT THAT LIVES ON FOREVER. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR KUEHN: AND SO TO THAT END, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, THIS EXEMPLIFIES THAT PRINCIPLE. MOREOVER, I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THIS WAS AN INITIATIVE THAT WAS BROUGHT TO THE UNICAMERAL BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BY THE PRIVATE DONORS. THEY SAW THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AS THE BEST PLACE TO INSTITUTE AND ESTABLISH THIS INSTITUTE, THE BEST PLACE TO CARRY OUT THIS MISSION, AND THEY ARE DONATING THEIR OWN MONEY TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. THIS IS A PRIVATE INDUSTRY-LED INITIATIVE. AND I WANT TO UNDERSCORE THAT TO ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES. THIS IS A GOOD USE OF OUR TAX DOLLARS AS AN INVESTMENT IN NEBRASKA, AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE, AND AN INVESTMENT IN OUR UNIVERSITY. SO I ENCOURAGE YOU TO OPPOSE AM1469 AND SUPPORT THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE AS PROPOSED IN OUR BUDGET. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR KUEHN. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY STAND UP AND OPPOSE AM1469. I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT WHAT YOU JUST HEARD FROM SENATOR KUEHN. HE WALKED YOU THROUGH I THINK A VERY GOOD DESCRIPTION OF WHAT WE HEARD AT THE PUBLIC HEARING. SOME OTHER COMPONENTS JUST IN THE SENSE OF WE DID PROVIDE TO THE BODY A LINK TO DRAFT COMMITTEE STATEMENTS, ESSENTIALLY, OF THE DIFFERENT BILLS THAT WERE INCORPORATED INTO THE UNDERLYING BUDGET AND WHAT...AS ALL OF US KNOW FROM DIFFERENT HEARINGS WITH OUR OWN COMMITTEES, WE RECEIVE A LOT OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT THAT ARGUABLY ARE NOT PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD IN REGARDS TO SHOWING WHO IS SUPPORTIVE OF THE UNDERLYING BILL. OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THIS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, AND I'LL REMIND THE BODY, THIS WAS ONE OF OUR PRIORITIES WITHIN OUR OVERALL BUDGET RECOMMENDATION WAS TRYING TO PRIORITIZE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WHERE WE'RE ABLE TO HAVE THE STATE BE A UNIQUE PARTNER IN FUNDING COMPONENTS THAT BRINGS IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT. AND THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS ANOTHER ONE OF THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT IS UTILIZING ONE-TIME FUNDING TO ALSO DRAW DOWN ONE-TIME PRIVATE FUNDING AND CREATE THIS ENDOWMENT FOR THIS INSTITUTE. SOME OF THE SUPPORTERS AT THE HEARING OBVIOUSLY WAS DR. RONNIE GREEN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, AG OF NATURAL RESOURCES COLLEGE. WE HAD SUPPORT FROM THE FARM BUREAU, FROM THE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. WE HAD RECEIVED LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM CARGILL, THE OMAHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DUANE ACKLIE, BURLINGTON CAPITAL GROUP, CONAGRA, FORMER SENATOR BEN NELSON, AND FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH, OBVIOUSLY THE FIRST TIME WE'VE EVER RECEIVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT IN MY TIME IN THE LEGISLATURE FOR A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FROM A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THAT OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT REASON WHY WE DECIDED TO APPROPRIATE THE ONE-TIME FUNDING. THE REALITY IS THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN UP OBVIOUSLY INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN AG EDUCATION AND TYING THOSE TOGETHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LAW COLLEGE AND THE AG COLLEGE TOGETHER. MY HOPE IS, IS THAT SENATOR KUEHN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE YOU COULD TALK TO OFF THE MIKE THAT CAN PROVIDE OTHER RATIONALE THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED OBVIOUSLY IN OUR EXEC SESSIONS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP. I CAN UNDERSTAND SENATOR GROENE'S DISLIKE OF THIS APPROPRIATION. SENATOR GROENE AND MYSELF HAVE SPENT AN AWFUL LOT OF TIME OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS TALKING ABOUT DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE BUDGET. HE'S EXPRESSED HIS DISLIKE AND DISPLEASURE OF THIS

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SPECIFIC APPROPRIATION. AND GOOD PEOPLE CAN DISAGREE. AND I WANT TO REMIND THE BODY THAT THAT'S NOTHING. OBVIOUSLY, SENATOR GROENE HAS MADE AN ARGUMENT OF WHY HE WANTS TO STRIKE THIS. MY HOPE THAT BETWEEN SENATOR KUEHN'S GOOD TESTIMONY YOU JUST HEARD ON THE FLOOR AS WELL AS LOOKING AT SOME OF...AND IF YOU WANT TO SEE COPIES OF THE LETTERS OF SUPPORT OR WANT TO TALK WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, PULL US OFF THE FLOOR AND WE CAN WALK YOU THROUGH THAT, COLLEAGUES. OVERALL, THIS IS A GOOD PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT I BELIEVE FUSES PRIVATE INVESTMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATE. AND ARGUABLY, IT RECOGNIZES A NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVANT THAT I THINK DESERVES RECOGNITION IN THE UNIQUE NATIONAL-INTERNATIONAL ROLE THEY HAVE PLAYED, CLAYTON YEUTTER, IN REGARDS TO TWO PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIONS AS WELL AS COUNTLESS OTHER PUBLIC SERVANT DUTIES HE PROVIDED TO THIS STATE OVER HIS LIFETIME. AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD OPPOSE AM1469 TO KEEP FAITH WITH THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE CONCEPTS OF SENATOR KUEHN'S BILL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR DOING A GOOD JOB ON THE BUDGET. I DO SUPPORT MAJORITY OF THINGS AND, YES, THERE WILL BE THINGS IN THERE I DON'T LIKE AND THERE'S THINGS IN THERE I LIKE. I AM IN OPPOSITION TO AM1469 BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT EXPORTS WILL HAVE TO NEBRASKA IN THE FUTURE. SENATOR KUEHN DID A GOOD JOB OF EXPLAINING THAT, SO I WILL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT. I ALSO LIKE TO THANK SENATOR MELLO FOR GUIDING THIS BUDGET THROUGH. AND I AGREE, WE WON'T ALL AGREE ON EVERYTHING, BUT WE WILL WORK THROUGH IT. THIS BUDGET IS A FAIRLY DECENT BUDGET OVERALL. AND I THINK ALL OF US CAN FIND THINGS IN HERE WE WOULD LIKE TO PICK APART AND TAKE OUT. I WON'T BE DOING THAT. I WILL LOOK THROUGH THE BUDGET. IF THERE IS SOMETHING TERRIBLY BAD, I WILL TALK TO SOMEBODY ABOUT IT. BUT I THINK, OTHERWISE, I THINK THIS BUDGET IS GOOD ENOUGH TO MOVE FORWARD. AND AS I LEARN MORE ABOUT IT, I HOPE I CAN START TO LIKE IT EVEN MORE. SO I DO APPRECIATE THE WORK THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAS DONE. I KNOW WE DO MOST OF OUR WORK IN COMMITTEE, SO I APPRECIATE THAT FACT. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING THE BUDGET DONE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. SENATOR WILLIAMS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. A FEW WEEKS AGO ON THIS MICROPHONE I TALKED ABOUT TRUST AND THE PROCESS THAT WE HAVE HERE. AND FOLLOWING UP ON WHAT SENATOR FRIESEN JUST SAID, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THAT, THAT TRUSTING THIS PROCESS AND TRUSTING THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOURS OF TIME THEY SPENT, A BIG THANK YOU TO THEM. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE SENATOR GROENE FOR THE WORK THAT HE DOES DO HERE. HE ASKED ME A WHILE AGO IF I WAS EVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS, AND THAT CERTAINLY WILL HAPPEN, BUT NOT ON THIS AMENDMENT. SO I WANT YOU TO KNOW I STAND IN OPPOSITION TO AM1469 AND IN FAVOR OF THE UNDERLYING BILL HERE OF CREATING THE YEUTTER INSTITUTE. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW AND WORK WITH CLAYTON YEUTTER FOR OVER 40 YEARS NOW. HE WAS RAISED LESS THAN 10 MILES FROM WHERE I GREW UP AND SO WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES FOR A LONG TIME. AND RECOGNIZING HIM AND HIS INPUT TO THIS STATE IS SOMETHING THAT IS MUCH NEEDED. BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT IS THE RECOGNITION THAT OUR CONTINUATION OF INVOLVEMENT WITH UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IS CRITICAL. AND THE INVESTMENT THAT WE WILL MAKE HERE BASED ON WHAT SENATOR KUEHN HAS EXPLAINED VERY CAREFULLY, WILL PAY US BACK MANY TIMES OVER. AND I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO RECOGNIZE THAT PART OF OUR JOB IS CERTAINLY TO CUT TAXES WHERE WE CAN. THE OTHER PART OF OUR JOB IS TO MAKE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS THAT GROW OUR STATE SO THAT WE CREATE MORE TAX DOLLARS FOR THE FUTURE. AND THAT IS WHAT THIS INVESTMENT DOES. SO I STAND AGAIN IN OPPOSITION TO THIS AMENDMENT AND IN SUPPORT OF THE UNDERLYING BILL AND THANK SENATOR KUEHN FOR CARRYING THIS AND ALSO THANK THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. I RECOGNIZE THIS YEAR WAS A DIFFICULT YEAR. THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, THEIR OVERALL REQUESTS BROUGHT SOME EYE-OPENING TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND OTHERS. LET US NOT, THOUGH, DISCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF MANY OF THE THINGS THEY BROUGHT TO THE TABLE, AND THIS IS ONE OF THOSE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR WILLIAMS. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB657]

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SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, SENATOR WILLIAMS, FOR YOUR KIND COMMENTS. NO, I ALSO, YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES I GET OVERBEARING HERE, BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DID SAY NO TO A LOT OF WHAT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA ASKED FOR. I BELIEVE I HEARD RUMORS OF 8 PERCENT BECAUSE I WASN'T IN THERE. I GOT TO USE OR SHOULD I SAY HEARSAY. IF I DON'T HEAR IT PERSONALLY, IT'S GOT TO BE A RUMOR OR HEARSAY. BUT THAT THEY WERE ASKING AS MUCH AS 8 PERCENT, AND THEY GOT THEM DOWN TO 3. BUT I HAVE AN AP STORY HERE. I'M ASSUMING THIS REPORTER IS AN HONEST PERSON. ASSOCIATED PRESS, MARCH 16, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, FORMER U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND AGRICULTURE SECRETARY HAVE PLEDGED \$2.5 MILLION TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN. THE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED MONDAY THAT CLAYTON YEUTTER OUTRIGHT GIFT AND COMMITMENT WILL BE USED FOR WHAT WILL BE CALLED THE CLAYTON K. YEUTTER INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE. THE PLAN AWAITS A VOTE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF REGENTS. YEUTTER, WHO LIVES IN POTOMAC, MARYLAND, WAS BORN...THEY PROBABLY GOT CHEAPER TAXES THERE, WAS BORN IN 1930 IN EUSTIS, NEBRASKA, AND HAS SERVED FOR U.S. PRESIDENTS IN CAREERS SPANNING DECADES. HE EARNED ALL OF HIS DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, BEGINNING WITH A BACHELOR'S IN 1952. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE PROUD OF MR. YEUTTER FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. BUT I'D LIKE IT CLARIFIED. DID MR...I MEAN, ARE WE SLURRING HIS NAME THAT HE DEMANDED THAT WE MATCH TAX DOLLARS OR DID MR. YEUTTER SAY OUTRIGHT GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA? IS THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA CLAIMING WE GOT TO MATCH IT TO GET IT BUT MR. YEUTTER DIDN'T SAY THAT? SO I'D LIKE THAT CLARIFIED BECAUSE I RESPECT MR. YEUTTER. AND IF HE JUST OUTRIGHT GAVE THE MONEY TO START THIS, THEN LET'S NOT CLAIM THAT HE DEMANDED IT BE MATCHED. I HEARD SOME PRETTY GOOD WEALTHY CORPORATIONS MENTIONED, WEALTHY INDIVIDUALS, PAST-PRESIDENT BUSH, CARGILL. CARGILL COULD WRITE \$2.5 MILLION TOMORROW. AND GUESS WHAT? CARGILL PROFITS FROM EXPORTS. NOW THAT'S A PRIVATE-PUBLIC...PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, PUBLIC CORPORATION COOPERATION. BUT, ANYWAY, I WOULD LIKE THAT CLARIFIED. I WILL PROBABLY PULL THIS AMENDMENT BECAUSE IT ADDRESSES A SITUATION THAT SENATOR MELLO IS ATTEMPTING TO ADDRESS WITH HIS AMENDMENT. BUT I WOULD LIKE SOME ANSWERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OR SOMEBODY IF THIS WAS AN OUTRIGHT GIFT. I'M NOT GOING TO USE THE WORK COERCION OR BLACKMAIL THAT THIS \$2.5 MILLION DOESN'T EXIST WITHOUT OUR MATCH, BUT MY TAXPAYERS DEMAND I FIND THAT OUT. SO I WILL PULL THIS AMENDMENT.

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BUT BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT FILE--AND I WILL SUPPORT SENATOR MELLO'S AMENDMENT--I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR SOME ANSWERS. SO THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND SENATOR MELLO AND SENATOR KUEHN, FOR THE CORDIAL DEBATE. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: WITHOUT OBJECTION, IT IS WITHDRAWN. [LB657]

CLERK: SENATOR MELLO WOULD MOVE TO AMEND WITH AM1484. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1346.) [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. THIS AMENDMENT, AM1484, IS A TECHNICAL CHANGE TO THE UNDERLYING COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. AS I MENTIONED ON MY FLOOR DIALOGUE WITH SENATOR GROENE, I'M APPRECIATIVE THAT HE HAD LOOKED THROUGH THE ACTUALLY BUDGET LANGUAGE. WE INCORPORATED THE CONCEPT THAT SENATOR KUEHN HAD BROUGHT TO THE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS THAT IT WAS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN WHICH THEN THE UNIVERSITY WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE FUNDS UNTIL THE PRIVATE FUNDING HAD BEEN SECURED. IT'S IN YOUR BUDGET BOOK EXPLAINED THE SAME WAY, BUT WE HAD UNFORTUNATELY LEFT OUT PART OF THAT LANGUAGE FROM TRANSFERRING SENATOR KUEHN'S LANGUAGE OF HIS BILL INTO THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL WITH OUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. THIS LANGUAGE SIMPLY STATES THAT THE PUBLIC APPROPRIATION, WHICH IS THE \$2.5 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM, WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO THE UNIVERSITY UNTIL THE PRIVATE FUNDS HAVE BEEN SECURED. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM1484. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SEEING NO ONE WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE. SENATOR MELLO WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION BEFORE YOU, COLLEAGUES, IS THE ADOPTION OF AM1484 TO AM829. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB657]

CLERK: 31 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF SENATOR MELLO'S AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB657]

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SENATOR KRIST: AM1484 IS ADOPTED. [LB657]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT, AM829. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. JUST AS A REMINDER, AM829 ESSENTIALLY IS THE WHITE COPY VERSION NOW OF THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL, THE RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. I APPRECIATE THE EXTENSIVE DIALOGUE AND DEBATE WE HAD TODAY. I BELIEVE THAT WHILE WE HAD SOME QUESTIONS ON A NUMBER OF ITEMS, HOPEFULLY MEMBERS FEEL THAT THEIR QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED. AND I APPRECIATE THE WORK OF A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO WORKED ON AND OFF THE MIKE TODAY IN REGARDS TO THE ISSUES SURROUNDING THE ORAL HEALTH FUNDING AND TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO PROVIDE PARITY TO ALL DENTAL SCHOOLS TO BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR THIS FUNDING. WE'RE GOING TO BE INTRODUCING AN AMENDMENT ON THE FUNDS BILL TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THAT LANGUAGE. IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE THAT COMES UP ALONG THE WAY BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT, PLEASE, COLLEAGUES, FEEL FREE TO GRAB MYSELF OR ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. AND WITH THAT, I'D URGE YOU TO ADOPT AM829. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING OF AM829. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF AM829 TO LB657. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL OF THOSE VOTED WHO WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB657]

CLERK: 27 AYES, 0 NAYS ON ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB657]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE...STAND BY. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

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SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT ONE ITEM TO MAKE SURE I GET IT ON THE RECORD. IT'S AN AREA OF CONCERN THAT I KNOW A NUMBER OF US SHARE. HAS TO DO WITH STAFFING AT OUR VETERANS' HOMES. ON PAGE 155, UNDER OPERATIONS, I'M GOING TO READ THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH: POTENTIAL INCREASES IN OVERTIME AT THE GRAND ISLAND VETERANS' HOME, PROGRAM 519, THE DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING FOR A POTENTIAL INCREASE IN OVERTIME PAY AT THE GRAND ISLAND VETERANS' HOME IN THE NEXT BIENNIUM. THE AGENCY INDICATES THAT RETAINING CERTAIN POSITIONS AT THE HOME IS CONSISTENT WITH LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES NATIONWIDE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH FRONT-LINE STAFF TURNOVER, AND THE GRAND ISLAND FACILITY HAS THE ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION OF THE PUBLICITY AROUND THE MOVING OF THE FACILITY TO KEARNEY. THE FUNDING WILL ENSURE SUFFICIENT STAFF COVERAGE IN AN EMERGENT SITUATION. I WANT TO CLARIFY SOME THINGS HERE. AND I WANT TO CLEAR THE NAME OF GRAND ISLAND COMMUNITY BEING REFERENCED AND PUBLICITY HAVING TO DO WITH THE STAFFING PROBLEM. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WANT TO IDENTIFY AN ISSUE THAT REALLY IS AN ISSUE, I THINK, RELATED TO QUALITY OF CARE AND STAFFING OF CARE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT ONLY IN GRAND ISLAND BUT IN NORFOLK. WE HAVE STAFFING ISSUES AND WE HAVE OVERTIME ISSUES IN BOTH OF THOSE FACILITIES. THE OVERTIME ISSUES AREN'T JUST A PAYMENT ISSUE, AND CLEARLY THIS IS AN AREA WITH MY HEALTHCARE BACKGROUND I UNDERSTAND. WHEN YOU PILE UP MULTIPLE OVERTIMES IN A ROW, WHETHER IT'S IN A NURSING HOME, WHETHER IT'S IN A HOSPITAL, ASSISTED-LIVING FACILITY, REHAB FACILITY, YOU'RE RUNNING THE RISK OF GREATER ERRORS AND INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF STAFF, NOT ABUSIVE TREATMENT BUT INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF STAFF, ERRORS, MEDICAL ERRORS. WE HAVE THAT PROBLEM RIGHT NOW WITH MULTIPLE OVERTIME HOURS BEING STACKED ON IN BOTH THE GRAND ISLAND FACILITY AS WELL AS IN THE NORFOLK FACILITY. TO SAY THAT IT'S A PUBLIC RELATIONS ISSUE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CHALLENGES AT NORFOLK. I THINK IN BOTH OF THOSE COMMUNITIES AND PERHAPS IN OTHERS ACROSS THE STATE WE HAVE PAY ISSUES IN TERMS OF NOT PAYING THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT. BUT I ALSO WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR WE'RE TWO YEARS AWAY AT BEST I THINK FROM MOVING THE GRAND ISLAND FACILITY TO KEARNEY. AND WHEN WE WERE HAVING THIS DISCUSSION LAST YEAR, ONE OF MY CONCERNS THAT I STATED IS, HOW IS THE DEPARTMENT GOING TO MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE STAFFING LEVELS, ESPECIALLY WHEN MOST OF THESE POSITIONS ARE LOWER-PAID POSITIONS THAT CAN'T AFFORD TO TRANSFER TO A COMMUNITY THAT'S 45 TO 50 MILES AWAY? HOW ARE WE GOING TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE STAFF WHEN PEOPLE LEAVE, AS THEY'LL WANT TO DO TO LOOK FOR MORE PERMANENT

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POSITIONS? HOW ARE WE GOING TO ASSURE STAFFING IS APPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE THE CARE? WHO WANTS TO COME IN AND TAKE A JOB THAT THEY KNOW IS GOING TO MOVE 50 MILES AWAY WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF TWO OR THREE YEARS? AND WE ARE ALREADY SEEING CHALLENGES WITH OVERTIME HOURS. WE'RE ALREADY SEEING CHALLENGES WITH HAVING ENOUGH STAFF TO PROVIDE CARE. IT'S AN AREA I'M GOING TO CONTINUE TO WATCH IN THE INTERESTS OF PROVIDING APPROPRIATE CARE TO OUR VETERANS. AND I HOPE AND EXPECT THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS ISSUE IS ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE TRANSFER OF THOSE PATIENTS TO ANOTHER FACILITY. BUT IT'S NOT...IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PUBLICITY. IT HAS TO DO WITH THE INEVITABILITY OF HAVING CHALLENGES, STAFFING POSITIONS, WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE THAT TRANSFER. NEEDS TO BE AN AREA OF FOCUS. AND IF IT'S A PAY ISSUE, AND I BELIEVE THERE'S SOME REASON TO THINK PAY ISSUES ARE ALSO PART AND PARCEL OF THIS, THAT ALSO NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED. IT'S NOT JUST PUBLICITY. IT'S NOT... [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB657]

SENATOR GLOOR: ...A NATIONWIDE PHENOMENON. IT'S SOMETHING THAT CAN BE ANTICIPATED, SHOULD BE ANTICIPATED, AND NEEDS TO BE DEALT WITH TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR ELDERLY VETERANS GET APPROPRIATE CARE. IT'S NOT A BUDGET ISSUE. IT'S A CARE ISSUE TOO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, MEMBERS. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I APPRECIATE SENATOR GLOOR'S CONCERN ABOUT THE STAFFING ISSUE AT OUR VETERANS' HOMES. AND I JUST WANTED TO SAY FOR THE RECORD AND FOR MY COLLEAGUES THAT THIS WAS AN ISSUE THAT WE RAISED IN THE CONFIRMATION HEARING TODAY FOR DIRECTOR PHILLIPS AND WE TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE. AND SHE TALKED TO US ABOUT HER VISION AND IN TERMS OF ADDRESSING STAFFING ISSUES AND HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO HER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE VETERANS' HOMES TO BE PLACES WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO COME TO WORK AND TALKED ABOUT SOME INITIATIVES FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AND EXPRESSED A COMMITMENT TO WORK ON THOSE ISSUES TO MAKE SURE WE'RE ADDRESSING THOSE ISSUES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. AND SO I WAS VERY ENCOURAGED TO

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HEAR HER COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WATCHING THAT HAPPEN AND BEING ENGAGED AS WE IN THE COMMITTEE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, WATCH TO MAKE SURE THAT IS HAPPENING AND THAT WE ARE REALLY ADDRESSING THOSE SERIOUS OVERTIME ISSUES THAT WE'RE HAVING IN OUR VETERANS' HOMES. THANK YOU. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. SENATOR SCHEER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB657]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I AS WELL JUST QUICKLY WOULD FOLLOW UP ON SENATOR GLOOR AND SENATOR CRAWFORD. IN NORFOLK, THEY HAVE STAFFING PROBLEMS AS WELL. IT DOES CREATE A SPIRAL. I THINK TO SOME EXTENT IT IS A FINANCIAL MATTER. WITH WHAT WE'RE ALL PROUD OF, HAVING A VERY LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, BUT WHEN THAT HAPPENS EMPLOYEES BECOME MORE MOBILE AND IT REALLY DOES BECOME A QUESTION OF HOW MUCH YOU PAY PER HOUR AND THE WORKING CONDITIONS. I HAVE TALKED TO DIRECTOR HILGERT AND HE ASSURES ME THAT THEY'RE WORKING ON TRYING TO RECTIFY THE THINGS AT LEAST IN NORFOLK AND I WOULD ASSUME IN THE OTHER LOCATIONS AS WELL. BUT CERTAINLY I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S TO DO WITH THE REPUTATION IN NORFOLK. I JUST THINK WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO FIND SOME WAY TO FUND THE LABOR COSTS, PERHAPS AT A LITTLE HIGHER LEVEL, TO ATTRACT AND MAINTAIN COMPETENT, QUALITY STAFF. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHEER. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR BILL. [LB657]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AS I DISCUSSED ON THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT THAT NOW IS THE UNDERLYING BILL, LB657, THIS IS THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL THAT HAS OBVIOUSLY A NUMBER OF ITEMS THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED TODAY, BEING THE KEY PRIORITY STILL, THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF THROUGH THE INCREASE IN THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, INCREASES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING, KEY STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, AS WELL AS STARTING TO ADDRESS WHAT WE KNOW ARE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ISSUES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. WITH THAT, COLLEAGUES, I'D URGE YOU TO ADOPT LB657. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB657]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU HEARD THE CLOSING ON LB657. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT TO E&R INITIAL FOR LB657. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB657]

CLERK: 26 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE LB657. [LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: LB657 ADVANCES. NEXT ITEM. [LB657]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB660 IS A BILL INTRODUCED BY THE SPEAKER AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 22, REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. (AM830, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1282.) [LB660]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN. [LB660]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. COULD I PLEASE WAIVE OPENING ON LB660 AND MOVE DIRECTLY TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT? [LB660]

SENATOR KRIST: ABSOLUTELY. PROCEED TO OPENING ON YOUR COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB660]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. LB660 APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE REAFFIRMATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS RECOMMENDED IN THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM. REAFFIRM PROJECTS ARE THOSE PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY THAT HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED APPROVAL AND FUNDING IN PREVIOUS BIENNIUMS THAT WERE FUNDED OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS. LB660 DOES CONTAIN AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, AM830, WOULD BECOME THE UNDERLYING BILL. THE AMENDMENT CONTAINS THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION, WHICH INCLUDES FUNDING FOR DEMOLISHING BUILDINGS AT THE NORFOLK REGIONAL CENTER, FOR RENOVATION OF THE WESTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME, AND MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF

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NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER'S GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING. I WOULD AGAIN REFER EVERYONE TO THEIR BUDGET BOOKS FOR A DETAILED ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION REGARDING THESE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. A SUMMARY OF ALL THESE PROJECTS CAN BE FOUND WITH A DETAILED NARRATIVE OF THE NEW PROJECTS ON PAGE 85 OF YOUR BUDGET BOOK. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM830. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB660]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON AM830. SEEING NO ONE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB660]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AS I JUST MENTIONED, THIS IS THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE REAFFIRMATIONS AND NEW CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, PRIMARILY THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS AT THE NORFOLK REGIONAL CENTER, AN EXPANSION OF THE FACILITY AT THE WESTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME, AND THE MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER'S GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM830. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB660]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM830. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF AM830. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB660]

CLERK: 26 AYES, 0 NAYS ON ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB660]

SENATOR KRIST: COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB660]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB660]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE. SENATOR MELLO WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB660 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB660]

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CLERK: 28 AYES, 0 NAYS TO ADVANCE LB660, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB660]

SENATOR KRIST: LB660 ADVANCES. NEXT ITEM. [LB660]

CLERK: LB661 WAS A BILL INTRODUCED BY THE SPEAKER AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 22, REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. I DO HAVE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. (AM831, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1283.) [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB661. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. LB661 IS THE FUND TRANSFERS BILL WHICH PROVIDES FOR VARIOUS TRANSFERS BETWEEN DIFFERENT FUNDS. THE BILL INCLUDES BOTH TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO CASH FUNDS AND TRANSFERS BETWEEN CASH FUNDS AS WELL AS THE CREATION OF NEW CASH FUNDS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. LB661 DOES CONTAINS AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, AM831, WOULD BECOME THE NEW UNDERLYING BILL. THE AMENDMENT PROVIDES FOR A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL FUND TRANSFERS AS WELL AS CORRESPONDING AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT LANGUAGE IN THE EXISTING FUND STATUTES. A FULL LISTING OF THE TRANSFERS PROVIDED FOR IN LB661 AND AM831 CAN BE FOUND ON THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT. I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM831. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE AMENDMENTS, COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I UNFORTUNATELY JUST GAVE YOU MY OPENING ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, NOT REALIZING I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE JUST WAIVED ON THE OPENING. HOPEFULLY YOU WERE PAYING ATTENTION TO THE GENERAL GIST OF WHAT THE FUND TRANSFER BILL IS. IT'S A TRANSFER BETWEEN DIFFERENT FUNDS AND OBVIOUSLY, AS I JUST SAID, WE CREATE THREE NEW FUNDS IN THE

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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM831. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. MR. CLERK. [LB661]

CLERK: SENATOR MELLO WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS WITH AM1486. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1346-1347.) [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AM1486 ESSENTIALLY IS THE COMPROMISE THAT YOU HAD HEARD SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, SENATOR SCHILZ, SENATOR COOK, SENATOR CHAMBERS, NORDQUIST, AND OTHERS TALK ON THE FLOOR THIS AFTERNOON IN REGARDS TO SEEKING WHAT WAS BROUGHT UP IN RESPECTS TO ENSURING THAT BOTH DENTAL ENTITIES IN THE STATE WOULD BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR THIS ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION OF MATCHING FUNDS FOR ORAL HEALTH SERVICES. IT STRIKES MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE LANGUAGE IN REGARDS TO THE CRITERIA THAT I KNOW SENATOR COOK, SENATOR McCOY, AND OTHERS HAD TALKED ABOUT ON THE FLOOR AND INSERTS INTO NOW THE FUND TRANSFER BILL LANGUAGE THAT STATES IF BOTH ENTITIES OR ANY ENTITIES OF MULTIPLE QUALIFYING APPLY THAT THERE WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE DISTRIBUTION, SO TO SPEAK, COMING FROM THE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES FUND BASED ON THE MATCH THAT THE ENTITY PROVIDES TO RECEIVE THIS ONE-TIME FUNDING. I WANT TO BE VERY CRYSTAL-CLEAR, COLLEAGUES. I KNOW SENATOR PANSING BROOKS AND SENATOR SCHILZ HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS LANGUAGE WITH THE FISCAL OFFICE, JUST INFORMED ME BOTH THAT THIS LANGUAGE MAY NEED TO BE CHANGED AND TWEAKED BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT. THE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN MADE BETWEEN WHAT A NUMBER OF SENATORS HAD RAISED ON THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL IS CAPTURED UNDER THIS AMENDMENT, BUT THERE MAY BE TWEAKS ALONG THE WAY TO ENSURE THAT EXACTLY WHAT WAS AGREED TO GETS WORKED OUT BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT FILE. WITH THAT SAID, COLLEAGUES, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM1486. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON AM1486 TO AM831 AND LB661. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR COOK

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AND SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. SENATOR COOK, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.
[LB661]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD YIELD MY TIME TO
SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WAS JUST RISING TO
THANK SENATOR MELLO FOR PRESENTING THIS AMENDMENT AND SENATOR
SCHILZ FOR WORKING THROUGH ON A REALLY GOOD COMPROMISE, AND THE
BILL DRAFTERS FOR HELPING TO CREATE THIS NEW LANGUAGE. AGAIN, AS
SENATOR MELLO SAID, WE'RE STILL TRYING TO PERFECT THE LANGUAGE AND
WE'LL DO SO AS WE...IN BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT. I HOPE YOU'LL VOTE
FOR THIS AMENDMENT. AND, AGAIN, I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE
MAKING THIS MONEY AVAILABLE TO NEBRASKA DENTAL COLLEGES, AND THE
COLLEGES CAN APPLY. IF THEY ALL MEET THE MATCH, THEN THE MONEY WILL
BE SPLIT EQUALLY. IT'S A FOUR-TO-ONE MATCH, SO EVEN IF...IT'S \$8 MILLION.
EVEN IF ONE GROUP GETS \$32 MILLION AND THE OTHER GETS \$80 MILLION, IT'S
STILL GOING TO BE SPLIT EQUALLY. BUT THEN IF ONE OF THE COLLEGES DOES
NOT MAKE IT AND DOES NOT...\$16 MILLION, A FOUR-TO-ONE MATCH WOULD BE
\$4 MILLION, HALF THE AMOUNT. SO EVEN IF ONE DOES NOT GET A FULL \$16
MILLION FOR THE MATCH, THEN IT WILL BE SPLIT PROPORTIONALLY AT THAT
POINT. AND THE OTHER, IF THEY GET THE FULL AMOUNT, WOULD BE ABLE TO
GET ALL OF IT. SO IT'S ANOTHER...GOT THE \$32 (MILLION) AND ONE GOT...IF ONE
GOT \$2 MILLION, THEN THEY'D GET \$500,000, AND THE OTHER GOT \$32 MILLION,
THEN THEY COULD GET THE FULL \$8 (MILLION) OR THE REST OF THE \$8
(MILLION), SO IT'D BE \$7.8 MILLION. SO THERE'S MY GREAT MATH FOR YOU ALL.
SO, ANYWAY, I JUST...WE'RE REALLY APPRECIATIVE OF WORKING THIS OUT. WE
WANT TO ALSO INSERT A DATE CERTAIN BY WHICH ALL THESE HAVE TO COME
FORWARD SO IT DOESN'T DRAG ON AND ONE PERSON SAYS, OH, WE GOT IT IN
FIRST OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. WE'LL HAVE A DATE CERTAIN. AND I JUST
REALLY APPRECIATE EVERYBODY'S EFFORT TO FIND SOME COMMON GROUND,
SO THANK YOU. AND WITH THAT, I WILL GIVE THE REST OF MY TIME TO
SENATOR COOK IF SHE HAD A QUESTION OR SOMETHING. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU CAN'T YIELD BACK, SENATOR. [LB661]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: I CAN'T. [LB661]

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SENATOR KRIST: BUT SENATOR COOK IS NEXT IN THE QUEUE. LUCKY SENATOR COOK, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THANK YOU, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. I KNOW. WE LEARN THE RULES BY USING THEM. I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE GROUP THAT HELPED TO CRAFT THE PROPOSED COMPROMISE. AT THIS POINT, WHILE I WAS PART OF SOME OF THE CONVERSATIONS, I WAS NOT PART OF ALL OF THE CONVERSATIONS. HERE'S WHAT I APPRECIATE ABOUT THE AMENDMENT: THAT IT IS, IN FACT, INCLUSIVE OF STUDENTS IN OUR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, AND THAT IT RECOGNIZES THE WORK THAT'S BEING DONE. I'VE MADE NO BONES ABOUT THE FACT THAT A LOT OF GREAT WORK GETS OFFERED THROUGH DENTAL STUDENTS, WHETHER THEY BE FROM NEBRASKA MEDICINE OR FROM THE MED CENTER OR FROM CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY AND DELIVERED THROUGH THE CURRENT CLINIC OR THROUGH THE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS IN MY COMMUNITY AND OTHER COMMUNITIES IN OMAHA AND AROUND THE STATE. HERE REMAINS MY CHALLENGE, AND IT'S THE ONE THAT I BROUGHT UP INITIALLY. WHILE, AGAIN, THIS IS A COMPROMISE, I WAS PART OF SOME OF THE CONVERSATIONS, THE...MY OBJECTION IS TO THE ROAD THAT...THE PATH WE'RE EMBARKING UPON WHEREIN PUBLIC DOLLARS ARE GIVEN TO, WHETHER IT'S ONE TIME OR ON AN ONGOING BASIS, ARE GIVEN TO A PRIVATE INSTITUTION, AND WE CAN CALL IT A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP OR COLLABORATION OR WHATEVER THE TURN OF PHRASE IS. BUT THIS IS MY CONCERN THAT I HAVE RAISED WITH MY COLLEAGUES AND THE COLLEAGUES IN THE WORKING GROUP AND ONE ON ONE. SO I WANT TO GET THAT IN THE RECORD, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT MY COLLEAGUES WOULD STILL BE AMENABLE TO TALKING ABOUT THIS. BUT AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT CERTAIN I CAN SUPPORT THIS AMENDMENT BECAUSE IT STILL INCLUDES MONEY FOR WHICH I'M IMAGINING CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY WOULD BE STILL MORE COMPETITIVE AS A GRANTEE. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME TO THE CHAIR. THANK YOU. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, SENATOR SCHILZ, AND SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I BELIEVE WHEN SENATOR BOLZ WAS TALKING BEFORE ON THE RELATED MATTER, THERE WAS THE WORD "PERPETUAL CONTRACT" USED. I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT A PERPETUAL CONTRACT IS. BUT, SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB661]

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SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: YES. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. THIS IS THE ONE-TIME \$8 MILLION EXPENDITURE. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: OKAY. NOW IN READING THROUGH THE LANGUAGE, AND I DON'T THINK THIS LANGUAGE HAS BEEN CHANGED, IT TALKS ABOUT ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT. IT TALKS ABOUT PURCHASING EQUIPMENT. IT TALKS ABOUT, I THINK THE WORD "ANNUALLY" NOW HAS BEEN STRICKEN, BUT SERVICING 10,000 PEOPLE. WHAT IS THE NECESSITY FOR A CONTRACT IF...AND WHAT WILL THAT ENTAIL, AND HOW ARE WE ENGAGING IN ANY FUTURE PROMISES OR IMPLICATIONS THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY A TAB EACH YEAR? WHAT'S THE NATURE OF THE CONTRACT THAT YOU ENVISION? [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: FIRST OFF, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, THE AMENDMENT, AM1486, STRIKES MOST OF THE LANGUAGE YOU JUST DISCUSSED IN REGARDS TO ANY OF THE ADDITIONAL CRITERIA OF 10,000 PATIENTS, ANY OF THE STUFF THAT YOU JUST MENTIONED. THE ISSUE THAT I THINK THE UNDERLYING QUESTION YOU HAVE IS, WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THIS CONTRACT, SO TO SPEAK? WHAT CAN THE FUNDING BE USED FOR? I DON'T BELIEVE THAT LANGUAGE HAS BEEN CHANGED IN REGARDS TO THE USE OF WHAT THAT MONEY IS SUPPOSED TO BE USED FOR, WHICH IS EQUIPMENT. BUT THE REALITY IS, IS RIGHT NOW I'M ASKING, I GUESS, THE BODY, IN RESPECTS TO WHAT WE HEARD FOR THREE HOURS THIS AFTERNOON, TO PROVIDE I THINK THE INTERESTED PARTIES--SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, SENATOR SCHILZ, SENATOR McCOY, SENATOR COOK, SENATOR NORDQUIST, SENATOR CHAMBERS--A LITTLE TIME TO FLESH OUT ANY ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE CHANGES THAT WE NEED IN REGARDS TO THE LENGTH OF CONTRACT, SO TO SPEAK, BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT FILE. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: WELL, WHAT I'M TRYING TO NAIL DOWN IS OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONTRACT OR THE DEAL, WHATEVER, WILL NOT EXCEED \$8 MILLION? [LB661]

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SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS CORRECT. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THERE'S NO ONGOING OBLIGATIONS. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THERE IS NO ONGOING OBLIGATIONS. THIS IS A ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION FROM THE CASH RESERVE FUND. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: AND WHAT ARE WE ASKING FROM THE DENTAL SCHOOLS AS THEIR PART OF THE CONTRACT? [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THEIR PART OF THE CONTRACT IS TO PROVIDE ONGOING SERVICES AT FREE AND REDUCED RATES FOR DENTAL CARE ACROSS THE STATE. AND ALSO PART OF THE REQUEST IS THAT, TO APPLY FOR THIS FUNDING, THEY'VE GOT TO HAVE PRIVATE MATCHING FUNDING TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: FOR HOW LONG DO THEY HAVE TO PROVIDE THESE REDUCED-COST SERVICES? [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT IS AN ISSUE THAT WE HAD ESSENTIALLY IN THE UNDERLYING PROPOSAL THAT WAS PART OF THE EXISTING COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. THAT DOES NOT GO AWAY. THAT IS AN ONGOING COMMITMENT FOR THE ORGANIZATION. AND I DON'T WANT TO USE THE WORD THAT I WAS JUST GOING TO USE, BUT WE HAD NOT PUT A TIME FRAME OR TIME CAP, SO TO SPEAK, THAT THE HAVE TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES. WE JUST ARE ANTICIPATING THIS IS AN ONGOING CONTRACT THAT THEY'VE GOT TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES BASED ON THE APPROPRIATION. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: BUT, I MEAN, IT SEEMS KIND OF ALMOST LOPSIDED. WE'LL GIVE YOU \$8 MILLION, AND FROM NOW TO EVERMORE YOU WILL PROVIDE DENTAL SERVICES TO 10,000 PEOPLE AT REDUCED COST. I GUESS I'M TRYING TO FLESH OUT, OR ASKING THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS DO FLESH OUT, IS WHAT KIND OF A CONTRACT ARE WE EXPECTING, AND, TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR, THAT \$8 MILLION, AND WE'RE OUT OF THEIR DEAL? [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: RIGHT NOW THE WAY IT'S DRAFTED, EVEN WITH THE AMENDMENT, AM1486, THERE IS NO TIME FRAME, SO TO SPEAK, THAT ENDS IN

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REGARDS TO THEM PROVIDING SERVICES. NOW I JUST SAID IT STRIKES THE PROVIDING SERVICES TO 10,000 INDIVIDUALS... [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: ...BUT ESSENTIALLY IT DOES NOT SAY YOU HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FOR TEN YEARS OR FIVE YEARS. WE DO NOT PUT A TIME FRAME IN THE UNDERLYING BILL BECAUSE IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING, THROUGH SENATOR SCHILZ'S ORIGINAL BILL, THIS WAS GOING TO BE AN ONGOING REQUIREMENT FOREVER, THAT THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: SENATOR, IF YOU WERE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT ONE OF THESE SCHOOLS MAKING THIS COMMITMENT, YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW THOSE THINGS. AND I'M JUST SUGGESTING THAT WE WOULD WANT TO PUT THOSE, SOME PARAMETERS IN HERE, BECAUSE YOU SURELY WOULDN'T WANT TO, FOR \$8 MILLION, COMMIT THE SCHOOL FOR 100 YEARS. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THAT WAS ACTUALLY THE COMMITMENT THAT THE INSTITUTION AND SUPPORTERS ACTUALLY WERE WILLING TO MAKE, THAT THEY WERE WILLING TO MAKE AN ONGOING, UNDEFINED COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES FOR THIS CONTRACT. AND SO, WITH WHAT WE HEARD TODAY, I OBVIOUSLY I THINK PROBABLY THE REALITY IS, SINCE THIS IS A ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION TO A FUND THAT TWO ENTITIES CAN ESSENTIALLY APPLY FOR... [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATORS. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER AND SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT, FIRST, PLEASE ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT. I KNOW IT'S NOT EXACTLY PERFECT YET, BUT WE'VE GOT THE INTERESTED PARTIES NOW LOOKING AT THAT, COMING UP WITH LITTLE TWEAKS THAT WE'RE GOING TO NEED. AS FAR AS SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S QUESTION,

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WHEN WE SAT DOWN AND TALKED TO EVERYBODY ABOUT THE BILL, YES, IT REALLY IS INTO PERPETUITY. BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENS IS WHEN THEY GET THIS DONE, THIS PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO THEIR FIGURES, ACCORDING TO THEIR STUDIES, PAYS FOR ITSELF BECAUSE OF THE EXTRA INCOME THEY WILL GET THROUGH TUITION AND THINGS LIKE THAT, INCLUDING SOME OF THE DENTAL CARE THAT IS PAID FOR BY FOLKS. BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY SERVE THE UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS, THERE ARE SOME ABILITY TO PAY LANGUAGE OUT THERE THAT REQUIRES SOME FOLKS TO PAY FOR SOME OF THE SERVICES. SO THEY REALLY DID MEAN FOR IT TO GO INTO PERPETUITY AND THEY AGREED TO THAT, SO I DIDN'T ARGUE. AND WITH THAT, I WOULD HOPE EVERYBODY WOULD SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT AND THE BILL, LB661. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I WILL BE VERY BRIEF. I'VE TALKED TO SENATOR MELLO, AND THE TWO AMENDMENTS THAT I HAVE, ONE ON EACH BILL, WOULD FOLLOW THOSE BILLS TO SELECT FILE. THAT FORECASTING BOARD, THE FORTUNE TELLERS, HAVE MET AND MADE THEIR PROGNOSTICATIONS, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT CHANGES MAY BE WROUGHT IN THE BILLS THEMSELVES. MY OPPOSITION WILL REMAIN NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENT IS REACHED, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK ANY MONEY THAT IS PUBLIC SHOULD GO FOR THIS PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, AND THAT'S WHAT IT IS. AND SENATOR SCHILZ HAS BEEN VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD, THEY EXPECT TO MAKE MONEY FROM THIS. THIS IS NOT A CHARITABLE OPERATION. THIS IS A BUSINESS DEAL FOR CREIGHTON BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO CHARGING SOME PEOPLE THE FULL AMOUNT FOR THE DENTAL CARE THAT THEY GIVE. SO IT'S NOT ONE OF THOSE ALTRUISTIC THINGS WHERE A GROUP HAS COME ALONG AND SAID WE SEE A NEED AND WE'RE GOING TO MEET IT. I STILL DON'T SEE AND I HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD HOW MANY DENTISTS WE CAN COUNT ON COMING AS A RESULT OF THIS WHO WILL STAY IN NEBRASKA AND SERVICE THE RURAL AREAS. AND IF THAT'S THEIR INTENT, SPECIFY HOW THAT IS GOING TO BE DONE. I DON'T BELIEVE ONE OF THEM WILL SET UP A PRACTICE. MAYBE THEY'LL RENT A ROOM IN SOMEBODY'S HOUSE AND HAVE THEIR MAIN PRACTICE IN OMAHA, AND THEN EVERY SIX MONTHS THEY'LL COME OUT THERE. AND YOU, YOU KNOW, YOU COME IN, THEY STERILIZE EVERYTHING AND YOU SIT ON A COUCH AND THEY DO WHATEVER THEY'RE GOING TO DO. BUT THERE ARE SO MANY ISSUES THAT I HAVE, BUT THE MAIN ONE IS THAT I DON'T WANT TO START GIVING THIS PUBLIC MONEY TO PRIVATE

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ENTITIES, EVEN IF THEY TALK ABOUT COOPERATIVE CANCER RESEARCH. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT DENTAL RESEARCH HERE. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT RESEARCH OF ANY KIND. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A BUSINESS DEAL, A MONEYMAKING OPERATION, AND WE ARE ASKING THE TAXPAYERS TO UNDERWRITE AND SUBSIDIZE A PRIVATE ENTITY WHOSE DOCTRINES SAY THAT THEY CAN DISCRIMINATE AGAINST PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. AND I WILL NEVER VOTE TO GIVE ANY MONEY TO AN ENTERPRISE, AND AS LONG AS IT'S THE CHURCH THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT TO IN THEIR CHURCH AND WITH THEIR CHURCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES, BUT TO GIVE MONEY TO SUBSIDIZE THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE IS WHAT I WON'T DO. AND I THINK IT TOOK A LOT OF GALL TO COME TO THIS LEGISLATURE AND SAY, UNDERWRITE OUR ACTIVITIES WHICH INCLUDE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. NOW, IF THEIR LOBBYISTS WILL COME HERE AND SHOW ME AN IRONCLAD POLICY WHICH WILL SAY THAT AS FAR AS THE DENTAL SCHOOL AND ANYTHING RELATED TO IT, WHETHER IT'S STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, INSTRUCTORS, THERE WILL BE NO DISCRIMINATION WHATSOEVER BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION, IF THEY DON'T MAKE THAT DEAL, THIS IS STATE-SUPPORTED DISCRIMINATION, AND I FIND THAT ABHORRENT. IN YEARS PAST, I'VE BROUGHT THE BILL TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION. OTHERS ARE BRINGING THE SAME LEGISLATION NOW, AND I SUPPORT IT TO THE HILT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND I APPRECIATE THE WORK OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO CRAFTED THIS AMENDMENT. IT GIVES ME A LITTLE BIT MORE LEVEL OF COMFORT WITH THIS BILL, BUT, BOY, THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS THAT JUST DON'T SIT REAL WELL WITH ME. I THINK WE ARE SETTING A PRECEDENCE HERE. SO GET PREPARED FOR OTHER INSTITUTE...PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TO COME FORWARD AND SAY, WHY NOT ME? SO WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? AND THEN I DO HAVE A QUESTION FOR SENATOR MELLO IF HE WOULD YIELD. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: ABSOLUTELY. [LB661]

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SENATOR SULLIVAN: SENATOR MELLO, AS I UNDERSTAND, OKAY, WE HAVE THIS APPROPRIATIONS BILL THAT THIS...AND I'VE HEARD TALK ABOUT A CONTRACT THAT WILL BE CONNECTED WITH THIS. BUT THE APPROPRIATIONS BILL CRAFTS A BUDGET THAT GOES AWAY IN TWO YEARS. WHAT HAPPENS TO A CONTRACT? DOES IT GO AWAY IN TWO YEARS? [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THE CONTRACT ARGUABLY, SENATOR SULLIVAN, WOULD BE A LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT'S SIGNED BETWEEN THE ENTITY APPLYING FOR THE CONTRACT AND THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. CONTRACTS LAST WELL LONG PAST A BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS. IT'S DEPENDING ON THE LENGTH OF CONTRACT, WHICH I THINK THE QUESTION THAT WAS POSED EARLIER BY SENATOR SCHUMACHER IS BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT FILE, WE PROBABLY HAVE TO DEFINE WHAT THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF THESE CONTRACTS WOULD HAVE TO BE. [LB661]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: WELL, NOT ONLY THAT, AND I THINK THAT'S APPROPRIATE, BUT IT STILL IS GOING TO BE PUT INTO THIS BILL THAT GOES AWAY IN TWO YEARS. SO THEN WHETHER YOU SIGN THE CONTRACT OR NOT, IT'S CREATED UNDER A BILL THAT GOES AWAY, SO THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE CASE. AND I KNOW THAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT TRUST HERE, AS SENATOR WILLIAMS MADE THE COMMENT EARLIER. BUT IT DOES CALL INTO QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT THAT WOULD BE A VIABLE CONTRACT, SIGNED OR NOT, DATED OR NOT, BECAUSE THIS BILL IS FOR A BUDGET BILL THAT GOES AWAY IN TWO YEARS. SO I REMAIN, STILL, NOT A GREAT SUPPORTER OF THIS. I THINK WE ARE SETTING PRECEDENTS THAT MAYBE IS GOING TO COME BACK TO BITE US YEARS DOWN THE ROAD. AND THE WHOLE IDEA, AGAIN, OF USING PUBLIC DOLLARS FOR PRIVATE INSTITUTION JUST DOES NOT SIT WELL WITH ME. THANK YOU. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN AND SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I DID WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE CONTRACT PROVISION BECAUSE WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT IT IN APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE EXTENSIVELY. WE CHOSE NOT TO PUT A DATE ON IT BECAUSE THAT GIVES...YOU KNOW, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NEGOTIATION LOOKS LIKE. WE ARE NOT MICROMANAGING A CONTRACT BY WRITING EVERY CONTRACTUAL PROVISION INTO OUR STATE BUDGET. WE ARE GIVING THE AGENCY THAT WILL OVERSEE THIS SOME GUIDANCE, BUT THEY HAVE THE ABILITY WITHIN THE STATUTE, WITHIN THE BUDGET LANGUAGE, TO

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WRITE A CONTRACT WITH PARTICIPATING PARTNERS THAT IS MUTUALLY AGREEABLE. IF EITHER SIDE DOESN'T AGREE, THEY DON'T SIGN THE CONTRACT. SO WE ARE GIVING THE COORDINATING COMMISSION THAT ABILITY. WE ARE NOT AGAIN...WE COULD, IF WE WANTED TO, WRITE EVERY SINGLE STATUTORY...WRITE EVERY SINGLE CONTRACTUAL PROVISION INTO STATUTE, BUT WE TRUST THE COORDINATING COMMISSION TO, WITHIN THE PARAMETERS WE HAVE SET, COME UP WITH A GOOD AGREEMENT WITH GOOD TERMS. AND WE HAVE INCLUDED SOME APPROPRIATION FOR THEM, ABOUT \$16,000. WHETHER THAT'S ENOUGH FOR THEM TO DO THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE WORK AND PRODUCE THAT CONTRACT, YOU KNOW, THAT'S SOMETHING THAT THEY COULD COME BACK IN A DEFICIT YEAR, ALSO, IF IT ISN'T SUFFICIENT. BUT WE ARE, AGAIN, JUST GIVING THEM THAT ABILITY. AS FAR AS THE ISSUE THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS JUST BROUGHT UP ON HIS LAST TIME ON THE MIKE, IF WE'RE GOING TO SET THIS...HAVE THIS PROVISION--AND I CERTAINLY HAVE STOOD EVERY TIME THERE'S BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO APPLY...TO ELIMINATE EMPLOYMENT NONDISCRIMINATION (SIC) IN THIS STATE--THEN WE NEED TO LOOK AT EVERY BILL. SENATOR SULLIVAN'S BILL LB519 FOR THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANT, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS SHOULD PROBABLY BE REQUIRED TO NOT DISCRIMINATE BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION. BUT THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE DIDN'T INCLUDE THAT ON THE WAY OUT WHEN THEY ADVANCED THAT BILL. SO MAYBE THAT'S SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT UP ON THE FLOOR ON THAT BILL. BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SOME PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHICH BILLS THEY WANT TO APPLY THAT TO AND WHICH ONES THEY DON'T. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661 LB519]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD LIKE TO ENGAGE SENATOR NORDQUIST IN A BIT OF CONVERSATION, IF HE WOULD YIELD. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR NORDQUIST, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB661]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YES. [LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR NORDQUIST, IF YOU DON'T KNOW, I KNOW WHAT THE POSITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS ON THIS. I KNOW WHAT THEY INSISTED ON IN TERMS OF WHAT THEY CALL A RELIGION CLAUSE. WHICH OF THESE OTHER ENTITIES THAT YOU MENTION THAT ARE AFFECTED BY GRANTS THAT SENATOR SULLIVAN'S COMMITTEE DEALS WITH IS UNDER AN UMBRELLA

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WHICH SAYS THAT THEY WILL DISCRIMINATE BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION? THEY WANT TO BE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENT THAT THEY NOT DISCRIMINATE. WHICH ONE OF THOSE ENTITIES IS LIKE THAT, AND I WILL SEE THAT THAT KIND OF A PROVISION IS ADDED. BUT GIVE ME A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES, IF YOU CAN. I KNOW WHAT THE CHURCH'S POSITION IS. I'VE EVEN TALKED TO MR. SCHLEPPENBACH ABOUT THAT. [LB661]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: RIGHT. WELL, I WOULD CERTAINLY THINK THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF...AND, YOU KNOW, I DON'T KNOW THE RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE OF ALL OF THE FAITHS THAT OVERSEE ALL OF OUR PRIVATE COLLEGES IN THE STATE. BUT I'M SURE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS-BASED PRIVATE COLLEGES IN THE STATE THAT HOLD A SIMILAR POSITION THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND ALL OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS ARE GETTING IT. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FOR-PROFIT... [LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IF I MAY STOP YOU BEFORE MY TIME RUNS OUT, ARE THEY HAVING A CHUNK OF MONEY GIVEN TO THEM FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES, PURCHASING EQUIPMENT IN THE FACILITY ITSELF, AS IS BEING DONE BY CREIGHTON HERE? IS THAT WHAT THOSE ENTITIES ARE GETTING FROM THE STATE, MONEY TO DO THE SAME THINGS THAT CREIGHTON COULD DO HERE? [LB661]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: IT IS DOLLARS SUPPORTING THEIR ORGANIZATION...THEIR INSTITUTIONS. [LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED YOU. YOU KNOW WHAT I'M ASKING YOU, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO ANSWER, SO I WON'T ENGAGE... [LB661]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: WELL, IN YOUR PREVIOUS...OKAY. SORRY. [LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S ALL I WILL ASK YOU BECAUSE YOU CAN BE ON THE CLOCK AND I DON'T WANT TO EXTEND THE TIME TOO MUCH. I KNOW WHAT THAT OPERATION IS. AND I ALSO KNOW THAT THERE IS PERCOLATING IN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE A BILL THAT WOULD CREATE THIS PREPOSTEROUS SITUATION WHERE A FUND TO SET ASIDE ONLY FOR THOSE WHO GO TO THESE PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS, WHICH I'LL FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL. THAT WILL BE A SESSION STOPPER IF IT COMES OUT HERE. I STOPPED IT ONCE, SENATOR NORDQUIST, AND I'LL STOP IT AGAIN. AND THIS IS ONE OF THOSE WHERE I WON'T YIELD. THAT IS WHAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED WHEN A CHURCH'S

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DOCTRINES ARE GOING TO DICTATE HOW THIS PUBLIC MONEY IS SPENT. AND I WANT TO DRAW THAT LINE IN THE SAND NOW. AND MY PRIMARY OBJECTION TO WHAT IS BEING DONE THROUGH THESE APPROPRIATION BILLS HAS TO DO WITH THE ATTITUDE THAT CREIGHTON HAS. BUT IN ADDITION TO THAT, I DON'T WANT TO SEE THE STATE GETTING IN THE BUSINESS OF GIVING PUBLIC MONEY TO PRIVATE OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE SECTARIAN, AND THAT'S WHAT CREIGHTON IS. AND IF SENATOR NORDQUIST IS NOT AWARE OF THAT, HE SHOULD TALK TO THE...IF THEY HAVE A BOARD THAT RUNS CREIGHTON, TALK TO THEM AND SEE WHETHER THEY'RE SECTARIAN OR NOT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ALL RIGHT. WELL, I'VE HEARD A FEW TIMES TODAY MY BILL IN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO DISCUSSED, SO I WILL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPLY TO SENATOR CHAMBERS AND OTHERS. YES, SENATOR CHAMBERS DID ELIMINATE THAT PROGRAM, BUT IT WAS IN PLACE FOR SEVERAL DECADES BEFORE THAT. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AT THE TIME SAID IT WAS A CONSTITUTIONAL COMPONENT. AND THE REASON THAT IT'S IMPORTANT IS, AS WE LOOK AT FUNDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB TRAINING IN OUR STATE, WE HAVE AVENUES TO FUND EVERY SINGLE COMPONENT OF IT INDIVIDUALLY WITHIN OUR BUDGET EXCEPT FOR THE PRIVATE HIGHER-ED SECTOR. WE CAN GIVE ALL THE MONEY WE WANT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. WE CAN GIVE ALL THE MONEY WE WANT TO THE STATE COLLEGES. WE CAN GIVE ALL THE MONEY WE WANT TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES, DEPENDING ON HOW WE WANT TO DO IT. BUT THE PRIVATE COLLEGES, WHICH PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF EDUCATION FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS IN OUR STATE...THAT'S WHAT THE STATISTICS SHOW. THEY HAVE A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATION FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE THAN ANY STATE-RUN INSTITUTION. WE CAN'T GIVE THEM DOLLARS FOR THAT EDUCATION, UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE A PATHWAY IN PLACE. WE SHOULD HAVE A PATHWAY IN PLACE. IT SHOULD BE PART OF THE BUDGET DISCUSSION, AND THAT'S WHY I INTRODUCED THE BILL, AND I THINK THAT'S WHY SENATOR KOLTERMAN PRIORITIZED THAT BILL. THANK YOU. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

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SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND JUST TO CLARIFY FOR THE RECORD, PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS DO HAVE A PATHWAY. IF THEY HAVE NEEDY STUDENTS IN THEIR INSTITUTIONS NEEDING FINANCIAL HELP, WE HAVE THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANTS. AND I WILL TELL YOU THAT IF YOU RECALL OUR CONVERSATION IN LOTTERY DOLLARS, NOW, BECAUSE WE HAD HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE GENERAL FUND SUPPORT FOR THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANTS SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO FUND IT WITH THE LOTTERY DOLLARS, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SAID, NO, WE'RE NOT GOING TO GO DOWN THAT PATH. SO 62 PERCENT OF THE LOTTERY DOLLARS ARE GOING TO THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANTS. AND I WILL ALSO TELL YOU THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHOSE NOT TO INCREASE THE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION TO THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANTS. IF WE WANT TO RISE ALL BOATS, THEN PUT MORE MONEY INTO THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANTS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SULLIVAN. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND, MEMBERS, I WANT TO TELL YOU HOW SKEWED THIS WHOLE THING IS AND HOW ARROGANT AND WRONG SOME PEOPLE ARE HERE. THEY WANT THESE STUDENTS THAT GO TO THESE PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS TO HAVE ACCESS TO EVERY AID PROGRAM THAT EXISTS. THEN THEY WANT TO SET ASIDE ONE FOR THEM TO WHICH OTHER STUDENTS HAVE NO ACCESS TO. NOW IF YOU ALL THINK I WON'T FIGHT THAT TOOTH AND NAIL, ASK TIP O'NEILL. HE WAS THE ONE WHO WAS HERE. AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN. AND SOME OF THE THINGS THAT YOU MIGHT THINK YOU HAVE FOR THESE PRIVATE SCHOOLS, YOU MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY GETTING THEM IN THE PAST. AND IF IT MEANS WIPING OUT SOME OF THESE OTHER PROGRAMS, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO SENATOR SULLIVAN, THAT'S WHAT WILL BE DONE AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. WHEN THERE ARE PEOPLE WILLING TO SKEW AND CORRUPT OUR PROCESS IN ORDER TO BENEFIT THE PARTICULAR SECTARIAN SCHOOLS OF THE CHURCH OF WHICH THEY'RE A MEMBER AND THEY'RE GOING TO CORRUPT OUR SYSTEM, THEN I'LL STOP OUR SYSTEM BEFORE I LET THAT HAPPEN OR DO AS MUCH AS I CAN TO STOP IT. AND I DON'T HAVE TO DO IT BY DEALING WITH A BILL AT A TIME. THAT BILL SHOULD STAY IN THAT COMMITTEE WHERE IT IS. BUT IF IT COMES OUT HERE, THEN I WANT THE SPEAKER TO BE WELL-AWARE OF WHAT IS IN STORE. IT HAD BEEN IN PLACE ALL THOSE YEARS BECAUSE I WASN'T AWARE THAT THEY HAD SUCH A TRAVESTY, SUCH A CORRUPT ACTIVITY. AND WHEN I BECAME AWARE OF IT, I WENT RIGHT AFTER IT. BUT I GAVE THEM A LITTLE TIME TO GET USED TO THE IDEA AND PHASE IT OUT. AND

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NOW HERE THEY COME AGAIN. WELL, LET THEM COME. AS I'VE SAID OVER AND OVER, IF THEY KEEP THEIR RELIGION IN THE TEMPLE, THEY WILL NEVER SEE ME. BUT IF THEY BRING THEIR RELIGION INTO THIS POLITICAL ARENA WHERE I AM, I'M GOING TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF THIS PLACE LIKE JESUS DROVE THE MONEYCHANGERS OUT OF HIS TEMPLE. HE SAID THEY DON'T BELONG HERE. YOU WANT TO SELL ANIMALS, GO TO THE BARNYARD OR GO TO THE MARKET, BUT DON'T BRING THAT MESS HERE. SO IF YOU WANT TO WORSHIP IDOLS, IF YOU WANT TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO IN YOUR CHURCH, IN YOUR TEMPLE, IN YOUR SYNAGOGUE, IN YOUR MOSQUE, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO THERE, IF THE LAW DOESN'T STOP YOU AND ARREST YOU, YOU CAN DO IT, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. BUT DON'T EXPECT ME, WHEN YOU BRING IT HERE, TO GO ALONG WITH IT. I GIVE A CONCESSION BY NOT COMING IN HERE WHEN YOU ALL PRAY EVERY MORNING, AND A LOT OF YOU MUST FEEL LIKE I FEEL BECAUSE YOU DON'T COME HERE EITHER. AND THEN YOU LET THESE PEOPLE DRONE ON AND ON AND ON, AND THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN TOLD KEEP IT BRIEF, AND THEY PREACH, AND NOBODY SAYS ANYTHING ABOUT IT. WELL, THIS IS NOT A CHURCH, AND I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT TO IN HERE. I DON'T COME HERE AND SALUTE THE FLAG, EITHER. AND IF I DID...IF I WAS IN HERE WHEN THEY SALUTE IT, THEY SAY STAND UP, I WOULDN'T STAND UP. I DON'T BELIEVE IN IDOLATRY, AND I'M NOT EVEN RELIGIOUS. WHEN I PRESIDED OVER THE OPENING OF ONE OF THE SESSIONS BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT YET CHOSEN A SPEAKER AND THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SOMETHING WAS WRONG, SO THE PERSON WHO HAD THE MOST SENIORITY HAD TO SIT UP THERE WHEN THEY OPENED IN THE MORNING. SO I SAT UP THERE. AND I WENT ALONG WITH THE PROGRAM. BUT I SAID THIS IS NOT CHURCH, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAND UP IF YOU DON'T WANT TO. YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO. IF YOU WANT TO THINK YOUR THOUGHTS, IF YOU WANT TO PRAY YOUR PRAYERS, DO IT, BUT AS LONG AS I'M IN THIS CHAIR, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING, AND I REMAINED IN MY SEAT. AND THE WALLS DID NOT COME TUMBLING DOWN. AND SOME PEOPLE HAD INDICATED THEY HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING OR HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN IN A SETTING LIKE THAT BEFORE. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB661]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I SAID, WELL, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN CHURCH. THIS IS NOT CHURCH. SO BRING IT HERE, AND EXPECT TO HEAR WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR. THAT MEANS WE'LL GO BACK INTO HISTORY, NOT JUST WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BUT WITH THE CHURCH THAT I GREW UP IN, ALL THE NONSENSICAL THINGS, THE SUPERSTITION, THE CRUELTY TO CHILDREN, THE PHILANDERING OF PREACHERS. AND I FOUND OUT WHY SOME PLACES AND

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SOME NEIGHBORHOODS ARE INFESTED WITH CHURCHES AND LIQUOR JOINTS-- BECAUSE THEY BOTH DEAL IN SPIRITS, AND THEY BOTH CATER TO THE SAME PERSONNEL, CLIENTELE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB661]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. YOU KNOW, IT'S UNFORTUNATE THE WORDS WE'VE HEARD SPOKEN BY SOME INDIVIDUALS TODAY ABOUT THESE INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE SO CRITICAL TO THE STATE. THEY HAVE SERVED, MANY OF THEM HAVE SERVED OUR STATE NOW FOR...CERTAINLY I KNOW CREIGHTON WAS 1876, SO WELL OVER, YOU KNOW, 120-130 SOME ODD YEARS. OTHER INSTITUTIONS ARE WELL BEYOND THAT. THEY ARE CRITICAL BACKBONE INFRASTRUCTURE TO OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE STATE. AND THE PROBLEM WITH THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANT, AS IT IS CURRENTLY CONSTRUCTED, AND I'VE MADE THE MOTION IN APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN THE LAST TWO PREVIOUS BUDGETS TO INCREASE THE GENERAL FUNDS TO THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANT, IS WE MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY-BASED BUDGET OF, WE'LL GIVE THEM A 4 PERCENT INCREASE OR 3 PERCENT INCREASE; SAME FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES, STATE COLLEGES. WE MAKE THOSE DECISIONS, AND THEN WE SAY, OH, WE'RE GOING TO INCREASE THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANT, YOU KNOW, 4-5 PERCENT. I THINK IN THE LAST BUDGET I WAS ABLE TO GET A 4 PERCENT GENERAL FUND INCREASE. AND, OH, THE UNIVERSITY IS GETTING 62 PERCENT OF THE MONEY THAT'S IN THE NEBRASKA OPPORTUNITY GRANT. SO THE ACTUAL AID GOING TO THESE CRITICAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE TURNING OUT MORE LOW-INCOME AND MORE MINORITY STUDENTS THAN ANY OTHER INSTITUTION IN THE STATE AND SUCCESSFULLY GRADUATING THEM WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE, THEIR AID OVER THE LAST DECADE HAS ACTUALLY DECREASED IN REAL DOLLAR TERMS. IN REAL DOLLAR TERMS, THEY HAVE GOTTEN LESS DOLLARS TO SUPPORT THE STUDENTS AT THEIR INSTITUTIONS. THAT'S A PROBLEM. IT'S A STRUCTURAL PROBLEM WITH HOW WE FUND HIGHER EDUCATION, AND IT'S AN ISSUE THAT NEEDS TO BE DEALT WITH. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. SENATOR COOK, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB661]

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SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD EVENING AGAIN, COLLEAGUES. I ALSO SERVE ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND WAS PART, ALTHOUGH LIMITED DUE TO A FAMILY COMMITMENT, OF THE INTERIM STUDY ON THE LOTTERY. AND HERE'S THE RUB, WHICH IS WHY I ALSO ADVANCED THE BILL RELATED TO TERM LIMITS. FROM WHAT I'M UNDERSTANDING, WE, THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, ARE CHARGED WITH EDUCATION POLICY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND THAT IS WHAT THE FORMER EDUCATION COMMITTEE COMMITTED THEIR TIME TO IDENTIFYING. AND OUR CONCLUSION WAS, YOU KNOW WHAT, IF WE BELIEVE IN SCHOLARSHIPS, BE IT TO PUBLIC STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OR COMMUNITY COLLEGES OR PRIVATE, THEN IT SHOULD COME OUT OF WHAT I WOULD CALL REAL MONEY VERSUS GAMBLING MONEY WHICH GOES UP AND DOWN, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS OUR CHARGE TO LOOK AT THE LOTTERY FUNDS BEFORE THE BILL SUNSET. AND THEN AS I'M LISTENING TO THIS CONVERSATION AND OTHERS, AND SNIPPETS HERE AND THERE, IT TURNS OUT THAT LONG BEFORE THERE WAS A CURRENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE OR A PRIOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE, APPARENTLY WERE CHARGED WITH SOMETHING OVER WHICH WE REALLY HAVE NO CONTROL. SO THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE SHOWING UP OVER THE SUMMER, THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE THE NEW 18 PEOPLE. YOU MAY BE MEETING ON SOMETHING AND THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, IN ITS EMINENT WISDOM, SINCE IT KNOWS ALL ABOUT EVERYTHING ABOUT FUNDING AND EVERY POLICY ISSUE AND IS CONCERNED AS THEY ARE ABOUT EMERGING ISSUES IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, INFORMED OR NOT, BY THE COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION, IT COULD JUST NOT GET FUNDED. SO PLEASE BE AWARE OF THAT AS YOU'RE SIGNING UP FOR LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS AND INTERIM STUDIES. THE ALMIGHTY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IS THE ONE THAT DETERMINES WHETHER OR NOT YOUR CAUSE IS WORTHY. THANK YOU. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON AM1486. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AM1486, ONCE AGAIN, TRIES TO STRIKE THE BALANCE OF THE LANGUAGE ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT WERE RAISED EARLIER ON LB657, THE MAINLINE BUDGET BILL, IN REGARDS TO THE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES FUND OF TRYING TO...TO TRY TO ELIMINATE THE CRITERIA AND TO MAKE IT MORE OPEN AND AVAILABLE FOR MULTIPLE ENTITIES TO APPLY AND TO ENSURE THAT IF BOTH...MULTIPLE ENTITIES OR BOTH DENTAL SCHOOL ENTITIES DO APPLY AND DO HAVE MATCHING FUNDS IN THEIR APPLICATION, THAT THE APPROPRIATION WOULD BE CORRESPONDING, SO TO SPEAK, WITH THE MATCHING FUNDS THAT

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THEY DO HAVE AVAILABLE. THAT IS ESSENTIALLY THE ESSENCE OF AM1486. AND IN MY CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR SCHUMACHER, WITH HIS Q AND A, THERE WILL NEED TO BE CHANGES MADE BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT. AND AS SENATOR CHAMBERS ALSO MENTIONED, HE WAS GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO MOVE HIS AMENDMENT THAT ESSENTIALLY STRIKE THE APPROPRIATIONS FROM GENERAL FILE TO SELECT FILE TO SEE HOW THAT PROCESS MOVES FORWARD. HE'S MADE NO COMMITMENT THAT HE MAY CONTINUE STILL WITH THAT MOTION TO STRIKE THE FUNDING, AND IF THAT IS THE CASE, WE'LL SIMPLY ADDRESS THAT ISSUE WHEN WE GET TO SELECT FILE. WITH THAT, BODY, I'D URGE THE ADOPTION OF AM1486. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661 LB657]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM1486. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB661]

CLERK: 25 AYES, 4 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: AM1486 IS ADOPTED. [LB661]

CLERK: NOTHING FURTHER ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON AM831. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AM831 IS THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION, WHICH IS THE WHITE COPY OF THE AMENDMENT NOW THAT WOULD BECOME THE BILL WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. AS I MENTIONED, IT CREATES A NUMBER OF FUNDS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. IT DOES PROVIDE A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT FUND TRANSFERS BOTH FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO CASH FUNDS, AS WELL AS VARIOUS CASH FUNDS TO THE GENERAL FUND. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM831. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM831. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF AM831. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB661]

CLERK: 26 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB661]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LB661. [LB661]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. WITH JUST THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT THAT BECOMES NOW THE UNDERLYING BILL, LB661, ANOTHER BIG COMPONENT OBVIOUSLY THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED EARLIER IN REGARDS TO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, THAT ACTUAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION ALSO OCCURS AS PART OF LB661 ON TOP OF WHAT I HAD MENTIONED WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AND PASS LB661. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON LB661. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB661]

CLERK: 33 AYES, 2 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB661. [LB661]

SENATOR KRIST: LB661 ADVANCES. ITEMS, MR. CLERK? [LB661]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, VERY QUICKLY, AMENDMENTS TO BE PRINTED BY SENATOR CHAMBERS AND McCOY TO LB661. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1347.) [LB661]

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MR. PRESIDENT, LB662, A BILL ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY THE SPEAKER AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 22 OF THIS YEAR, AT THAT TIME REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC HEARING, ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. (AM1246, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1283.) [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB662. [LB662]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I'D LIKE TO WAIVE OPENING ON LB662 AND MOVE DIRECTLY TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN. [LB662]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF LB662 IS TO AMEND THE NEBRASKA REVISED STATUTE 84-612 TO PROVIDE FOR NEW TRANSFERS FROM THE CASH RESERVE FUND. AS INTRODUCED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR, THE ORIGINAL BILL PROVIDED FOR A TRANSFER OF \$5.5 MILLION FROM THE CASH RESERVE FUND TO THE REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT LITIGATION CONTINGENCY FUND AND ROUGHLY \$17 MILLION TO THE GENERAL FUND. THAT \$17 MILLION TRANSFER WAS TO COVER THE IV-E DISALLOWANCE PENALTY THAT THE STATE OF NEBRASKA HAS TO PAY BACK TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. LB662 DOES CONTAIN AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, AM1246, WOULD BECOME THE NEW UNDERLYING BILL. THE COMMITTEE RETAINS THE TRANSFERS INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS. AND AS I'VE NOTED IN EARLIER DEBATE ON LB657 AND LB661, IT NOW ALSO INCLUDES A \$25 MILLION TRANSFER TO THE NEBRASKA CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER'S GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING, AS WELL AS AN \$8 MILLION TRANSFER TO THE ORAL HEALTH TRAINING AND SERVICES FUND IN THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM1246. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662 LB657 LB661]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. MR. CLERK FOR AN AMENDMENT. [LB662]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR SCHNOOR WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS WITH AM1465. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1347.) [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAVE TWO AMENDMENTS, YOU KNOW, BOTH GENERALLY IDENTICAL. THE CASH RESERVE FUND, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IS TO COVER SHORTFALLS OF REVENUE. IT'S THAT RAINY DAY FUND. IT'S THAT EMERGENCY FUND THAT YOU WOULD HAVE AT HOME TO TAKE CARE OF EMERGENCIES. BUT WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE, WE'RE TAKING MONEY, WE'RE TRANSFERRING IT TO...WE'RE GIVING IT TO COLLEGES TO BUILD BUILDINGS AND TO START ANOTHER PROGRAM. IN MY VIEW, WE'RE USING THIS MONEY FOR SOMETHING THAT IT WASN'T MEANT FOR. THIS IS EXTRA TAXES. THIS IS EXCESSIVE MONEY THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED. SO MY AMENDMENT SIMPLY SAYS TO GIVE THIS BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS. LET'S GIVE IT BACK THROUGH THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT RELIEF FUND. WE JUST HEARD OF...I BELIEVE THE AMOUNT WAS \$198 MILLION THAT'S COMING OUT FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. WELL, THIS AMENDMENT IS THE \$8 MILLION. LET'S MAKE A ONE-TIME TRANSFER TO THAT FUND FOR THIS NEXT YEAR. THAT'S SIMPLY WHAT IT IS. THIS IS TAXPAYER MONEY. LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS. WE HAVE HEARD ALL YEAR ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES. WE HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP OUT A LITTLE MORE FOR THOSE PEOPLE THAT ARE PAYING THEM. SO LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS. THANK YOU, SIR. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. YOU HAVE HEARD THE OPENING ON THE AMENDMENT, AM1465, TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT AND TO THE BILL, LB662. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR MELLO AND SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY STAND UP AND OPPOSE AM1465 IN THE SENSE OF KEEPING WITH THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS. BUT AS I'VE DISCUSSED ON THIS FLOOR NOW FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE CASH RESERVE FUND HAS BEEN A UNIQUE CREATURE THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO

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CREATE WHAT I BELIEVE IS GOOD FISCAL POLICY. AND IT WELL DATED BEFORE I BECAME COMMITTEE CHAIR, AND WAS ACTUALLY THE PREVIOUS APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR HAD REALLY STARTED US DOWN THIS PATH, WHICH IS WE UTILIZE THE CASH RESERVE FUND FOR TWO MAIN PURPOSES. ONE IS, SENATOR SCHNOOR IS CORRECT, IN TIMES OF REVENUE DECLINE OR REVENUE VOLATILITY, WE WOULD USE THE CASH RESERVE TO BACKFILL THAT LOSS OF REVENUE TO HELP MITIGATE MASSIVE CUTS TO STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND/OR FUNDS THAT PREDOMINATELY HAVE AN IMPACT ON LOCAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS THROUGH TEEOSA; COMMUNITY COLLEGE AID; AND BEFORE 2011, AID TO CITIES, COUNTIES, AND NRDS. THAT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE MAIN FOCUS OF WHY WE TRIED TO BUILD UP A STRONG AND HEALTHY CASH RESERVE FUND TO USE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. THE LEGISLATURE ALSO HAS STRATEGICALLY USED THE CASH RESERVE FUND FOR ONE-TIME ITEMS, WHETHER IT'S A ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION FOR A CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, WHETHER IT'S A ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION TO A CASH FUND. FOR AN EXAMPLE, LAST YEAR WE APPROPRIATED ONE-TIME FUNDING TO THE JOB TRAINING CASH FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE ALSO EXPANDED THAT JOB TRAINING CASH FUND TO BE ABLE TO BE UTILIZED IN HIGH-POVERTY, HIGH-UNEMPLOYMENT AREAS OF THE STATE. THAT WAS A STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DECISION THAT NOT ONLY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DECIDED, BUT ULTIMATELY THE ENTIRE LEGISLATURE VOTED AND SUPPORTED. IT WAS ONE TIME IN NATURE. IT WAS NOT AN ONGOING REQUIREMENT, AN ONGOING ASK, SO TO SPEAK, FROM THE AGENCY, FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT. WHAT WE HAVE IN SENATOR SCHNOOR'S AMENDMENTS, NOT JUST AM1465 BUT ALSO HIS NEXT AMENDMENT, IS ESSENTIALLY IT CREATES WHAT I WOULD SAY A TAX CLIFF OR ESSENTIALLY A ONE-TIME RELIEF AND THEN A TAX INCREASE THE NEXT YEAR, BECAUSE WHAT WE WOULD BE DOING UNDER SENATOR SCHNOOR'S AMENDMENT WHICH IS, YES, WE WOULD BE ELIMINATING THE FUNDING FOR THE ORAL HEALTH TRAINING AND SERVICES FUND. BUT WE WOULD BE SHIFTING IT TO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FUND FOR ONE YEAR ONLY: \$8 MILLION MORE THE FIRST YEAR; THE SECOND YEAR IT STAYS WITH WHAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED OF THE ROUGHLY \$200 MILLION. SO, YES, NEBRASKANS WOULD SEE A SMALL, PROBABLY GIVE OR TAKE, A \$1.65 MORE INCREASE IN THEIR PROPERTY TAX CREDIT WITH THE \$8 MILLION, BUT THEN NEXT YEAR THEY WOULD SEE ARGUABLY SEE AN INCREASE IN THEIR PROPERTY TAXES BECAUSE THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT WOULD BE REDUCED BECAUSE IT WAS THE USE OF ONE-TIME MONEY. COLLEAGUES, THIS GENERALLY RUNS AGAINST WHAT I WOULD ARGUE IS GOOD FISCAL POLICY, WHICH IS WE DON'T USE ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR SIGNIFICANT ONGOING APPROPRIATIONS, OR I SHOULD SAY,

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SIGNIFICANTLY NEW ONGOING APPROPRIATIONS OR SIGNIFICANTLY NEW ONGOING TAX CHANGES. IT'S BEEN ARGUABLY THE POLICY WELL BEFORE I BECAME CHAIR IN 2013. IT'S WHAT THE LEGISLATURE HAS TRIED TO STICK TO MY ENTIRE TIME IN THE BODY. IT'S NOT THAT ARGUABLY WE WON'T CONSIDER BIGGER PROPERTY TAX REFORMS, WHICH I KNOW THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL BE DISCUSSING TOMORROW IN SENATOR SULLIVAN'S LR201. WE HAVE OTHER PROPERTY TAX MEASURES IN FRONT OF US, SENATOR GLOOR'S LB259 THAT LOOKS TO CREATE A PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION. I JUST FUNDAMENTALLY BELIEVE, AS A FISCAL PERSPECTIVE THAT WE SHOULD HAVE AS A STATE AND AS A LEGISLATURE, WE DON'T USE ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR SIGNIFICANT ONGOING TAX OR SPENDING ITEMS. I LUMP THEM BOTH TOGETHER BECAUSE THE REALITY IS YOU WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE TO FIND THE MONEY OR CUT THE BUDGET SOMEWHERE TO MAKE UP FOR THIS ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION. AND IN THIS CASE, IT'S A ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION TO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FROM THE CASH RESERVE. COLLEAGUES, I GENERALLY JUST HAVE TRIED TO ARGUE AGAINST THIS THE LAST THREE YEARS, AND THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THIS YEAR WITH AM1465. AND I HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY ASK THE BODY TO OPPOSE THIS. I DO APPRECIATE SENATOR SCHNOOR COMING UP TO ME EARLY ON. HE TALKED TO ME ABOUT THIS, SAID HE WAS GOING TO BRING THE MEASURE. I APPRECIATE HIS CANDIDNESS AND HIS CONGENIALITY... [LB662 LR201 LB259]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB662]

SENATOR MELLO: ...IN REGARDS TO WHY HE WAS DOING THIS AND WHAT HE WANTED TO DO AND WHAT HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT. I JUST HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE WITH HIM ON THIS ISSUE AND URGE THE BODY NOT TO ADOPT AM1465. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, GROENE, SCHNOOR, AND NORDQUIST. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I STAND IN SUPPORT OF SENATOR SCHNOOR'S AMENDMENT. COLLEAGUES, WE'VE SPENT A GOOD SHARE OF THE AFTERNOON INTO THE EVENING TALKING ABOUT THIS \$8 MILLION DOLLARS THAT WE REALLY SHOULDN'T SPEND, THAT WE REALLY SHOULDN'T GIVE TO CREIGHTON, AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT. THIS IS A WONDERFUL IDEA. AS I SAID BEFORE, HOW UNIQUE WOULD IT BE IF WE WOULD JUST GIVE IT BACK TO

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THE TAXPAYER? LET'S NOT SPEND THEIR MONEY FOR SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DONE. LET'S GIVE THEM BACK A LITTLE BIT OF IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. APPRECIATE SENATOR SCHNOOR FOR TRYING TO GIVE THE MONEY BACK TO WHO IT ACTUALLY BELONGS TO, THE TAXPAYER. I KEEP HEARING HOW GENEROUS WE ARE IN THIS BODY, THAT WE GAVE THESE TAX BREAKS TO THESE TAXPAYERS. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GIVE SOMEBODY MONEY THAT BELONGS TO THEM AND THEN TAKE CREDIT FOR IT. THE WAY I UNDERSTAND THE BUDGET IS THAT THIS BODY, OUR POLITICAL BODY, SETS A BUDGET AND THEN THEY TELL THE TAXPAYERS WE'RE GOING TO TAX YOU SO MUCH THIS FISCAL YEAR TO PAY FOR WHAT WE HAVE BUDGETED. THIS BODY, LAST YEAR OR THE YEAR BEFORE, CONFISCATED TOO MUCH MONEY FROM THE TAXPAYER TO PAY FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR'S BUDGET. THEY OVERPAID IT. THEY OVERPAID US. IT WASN'T BECAUSE WE WERE GREAT MANAGERS THAT WE HAVE EXCESS MONEY. WE CHARGED THEM TOO MUCH FOR THE GOODS THEY WERE EXPECTED TO PAY FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR. SO THEN THE NEXT YEAR COMES ALONG AND WE SAY, WELL, BY GOLLY, WE'VE GOT ALL THIS MONEY IN OUR POCKET. IT'S OURS, ELECTED POLITICIANS. WHERE DID IT COME FROM? OH, IT'S JUST TAX DOLLARS. SO NOW WE'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE SPECIAL INTERESTS. FORGET WHERE IT CAME FROM, THAT WHAT WE OVERCHARGED THE TAXPAYER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THE PREVIOUS FISCAL BIENNIUM. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THEM GUYS IN CREIGHTON OR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. THEY'VE GOT THIS WILD IDEA. THEY'RE GOING TO TRY THIS NEW THING THAT'S ONLY BEEN TRIED ONCE BEFORE. AND IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN OPEN A YEAR, AND I CAN'T FIND ANYBODY TO TELL ME IT'S BEEN SUCCESSFUL, IN TOLEDO, OHIO. SO WE'RE DOING THEM A FAVOR. BOY, WEREN'T WE GENEROUS. I KEEP HEARING FROM CERTAIN SENATORS WHO SAID WE GAVE THEM BACK THIS PROPERTY TAX REBATE. HUH, WE GAVE THEM BACK MONEY, OUR MONEY, THE UNICAMERAL'S MONEY. WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT. WE COULD BUILT A DENTAL SCHOOL OR SOME OTHER THING THAT WE THINK THAT WE NEED TO DO. I'D JUST LIKE TO REMIND YOU, WHEN THOSE FOLKS PAID THOSE TAXES, THEY WERE PAYING IT IN THAT FISCAL YEAR FOR THAT BUDGET. WE OVERCHARGED THEM, THEREFORE, WE SHOULD GIVE IT BACK TO THEM. I DON'T THINK ANYBODY SHOULD BRAG AND SAY, WELL, LOOK AT ALL THE TAX BREAKS WE DID AND ALL THE TAX RELIEF WE DID. WE OVERCHARGED THEM. WE CONFISCATED MORE THAN WHAT WE TOLD THEM WE WERE GOING TO DO IN

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PAST FISCAL YEARS. IT IS THEIR MONEY. SENATOR SCHNOOR UNDERSTANDS THAT. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD UNDERSTANDS THAT. I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH THAT MONEY. IT DON'T BELONG TO ME. IT BELONGS TO THEM. WE OVERCHARGED THEM. SO WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE DOING IF THINGS ARE LOOKING SO ROSY IS CUTTING THE INCOME TAX, I THINK SENATOR SMITH WOULD AGREE WITH THAT, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THIS MONEY HAD GENERATED FROM, FROM INCOME TAXES. LET'S CUT THEM TO MATCH THE BUDGET INSTEAD OF GETTING OUR GRUBBY HANDS ON IT SO WE CAN HAVE EXCESS MONEY SO WE CAN DO OUR SPECIAL PROJECTS THE NEXT YEAR. LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO THEM. AND THAT'S WHAT SENATOR SCHNOOR WANTS TO DO, AND I APPLAUD HIM FOR IT. THANK YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I HEARD SENATOR MELLO SAY THIS IS BAD TAX POLICY. CAN YOU BELIEVE GIVING THE MONEY BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS IS A BAD POLICY? IT'S...I GUESS I DON'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT. WE TALK ABOUT GIVING...HE TALKED ABOUT FUNDING THE PROGRAM AGAIN FOR ANOTHER YEAR. WE'RE FUNDING IT. WE'RE GIVING THE MONEY BACK. WE'RE GIVING IT BACK TO THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE PAID IT, NOT ALL OF THEM. WE'RE GIVING IT BACK TO THE PEOPLE THAT ARE PAYING PROPERTY TAXES. AND THAT IS BAD TAX POLICY? I'D HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE. HE SAID THAT THEY'LL GET...THEIR TAXES WILL DECREASE, AND THEN THEY'LL HAVE A TAX INCREASE AFTER THIS \$8 MILLION IS GIVEN BACK. YES, MAYBE THEY'LL BE PAYING MORE, MORE THAN LIKELY. BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS WE'RE GIVING IT BACK. WE'RE GIVING IT BACK TO THOSE THAT ARE PAYING PROPERTY TAXES, THOSE THAT...THE ARGUMENTS THAT WE HAVE HEARD SINCE JANUARY, SINCE THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY THAT WE HAVE BEEN HERE. AND WE'RE GIVING BACK, IN THIS INSTANCE IT IS THE \$8 MILLION THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED EARLIER, IN MY MIND, THAT IS DONE UNDER SOME, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY, SOME SHADY CIRCUMSTANCES MAYBE. OR AS SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID, THIS JUST SMELLS BAD. SO LET'S TAKE THAT MONEY AND GIVE IT BACK TO THE PEOPLE. THIS IS NOT BAD TAX POLICY. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW WE CAN EVEN COMPARE THIS TO BAD TAX POLICY. SO I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS I COULD REPEAT MYSELF A MILLION TIMES. BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANT TO DO. LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO THE PEOPLE. SO THANK YOU, SIR. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

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SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. A RESPONSIBLE BALANCED BUDGET INCLUDES SUSTAINABLE STREAMS OF REVENUE AND SUSTAINABLE STREAMS OF OUTFLOWS AND EXPENDITURES. AND AT TIMES, IF THOSE COME OUT...YOU KNOW, AREN'T BALANCED, THEN YOU SOMETIMES GENERATE A SURPLUS OR YOU HAVE TO MAKE CHANGES TO ONE OF THE TWO. AND WE'VE SEEN THAT THROUGH CYCLICAL PATTERNS IN OUR STATE. IN THE EARLY 2000s, THERE HAD TO BE TAX INCREASES BECAUSE THERE WERE TOO MANY OUTFLOWS AND NOT ENOUGH INFLOWS. THE LEGISLATURE AT THAT TIME THOUGHT A TAX INCREASE WAS THE RESPONSIBLE WAY TO GO. WE DON'T WANT TO EVER GET DOWN TO THAT POINT AGAIN. WE KNOW THAT ACCORDING TO EVERY OUNCE OF HISTORICAL DATA THAT WE HAVE, THAT OUR ECONOMY WILL EBB AND FLOW, AND THERE WILL BE TIMES WITH SOME SIGNIFICANT VARIATION, WHERE REVENUES WILL FALL OFF. SO WE NEED THAT CASH RESERVE THERE AT A RESPONSIBLE LEVEL TO BE ABLE TO FILL IN ON THE DOWN TIMES BECAUSE THE ECONOMY IS NOT JUST A STRAIGHT, CONSISTENT LINE WHEN YOU LOOK AT REVENUE GROWTHS COMING INTO THE STATE. THAT'S WHY UTILIZING ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR ONGOING TAX RELIEF IS NOT GOOD POLICY. THAT'S WHY WITHIN THE BUDGET WE'RE HAVING A BALANCED BUDGET THAT INCLUDES A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE. I BELIEVE EARLIER I DID A CALCULATION FROM WHERE THE FUND WAS INITIALLY, \$115 MILLION TO \$200 MILLION JUST OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TAKE THAT FUND UP ALMOST 80 PERCENT OVER...SINCE 2007. SO IF WE WANT TO DO TAX RELIEF THROUGH THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT, IT MAKES SENSE TO DO IT THROUGH THE BUDGET, THE GENERAL-FUNDED BUDGET, SO IT'S A SUSTAINABLE AMOUNT. SO I WILL NOT SUPPORT SENATOR SCHNOOR'S AMENDMENT. BUT WE ALSO HAVE A HISTORY IN THE STATE OF UTILIZING THE CASH RESERVE WHEN WE DON'T SPEND IT DOWN BELOW WHAT WE THINK IS A RESPONSIBLE LEVEL. BUT GOVERNOR HEINEMAN HAS DONE IT, DID IT MULTIPLE TIMES. THE LEGISLATURE HAS DONE IT, ON CHOOSING KEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT ARE ONE-TIME ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. AND IN THIS BILL, WE HAVE TWO OF THOSE, WE'VE OBVIOUSLY TALKED EXTENSIVELY TODAY ABOUT THE CREIGHTON...THE ORAL HEALTH CLINIC IN PARTNERSHIP MOST LIKELY WITH CREIGHTON AND MAYBE NOW THE UNIVERSITY, BUT THE OTHER PIECE IS SENATOR HILKEMANN'S BILL AND SENATOR STINNER'S COMBINATION BILL TO ESTABLISH THE GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING. I KNOW WE HAD A COLLEAGUE ON THE FLOOR EARLIER TALK ABOUT HOW, YOU KNOW, NEBRASKA JUST...WE'RE NOT ABLE TO COMPETE WITH THE STANFORDS OR THE HARVARDS OR THE MITs. WELL, THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS IN THIS AREA, THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE PUTTING FORWARD AND THE PRIVATE-SECTOR COMMITMENT TO MATCH

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THIS WILL MAKE US A WORLDWIDE LEADER IN MEDICAL EDUCATION MOVING FORWARD. IT WILL COMPLETELY...IT CERTAINLY IS TRANSFORMATIVE IN THE WAY MEDICAL EDUCATION IS DELIVERED. IT WILL IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE AS ALL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS WILL BE ABLE TO WALK THROUGH REAL-LIFE SIMULATIONS TO...OF PROCEDURES. BEFORE ACTUALLY GOING INTO AN OPERATING ROOM OR BEFORE CONDUCTING A PROCEDURE ON A LIVE PATIENT, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO PERFECT THEIR SKILLS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. AND THAT TECHNOLOGY THAT IS IN THIS BILL, AND WITH PARTNERSHIP WITH SENATOR STINNER'S CO-FUNDING BILL, WE'LL BE ABLE TO EXTEND THE REACH OF THIS FROM BORDER TO BORDER. THERE WILL BE A SATELLITE COMPONENT IN SCOTTSBLUFF... [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB662]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ...AND IN OTHER COMMUNITIES AROUND THE STATE. SO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE STATE TO GET THEIR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TO REALLY INCREASE THE PROFICIENCY OF WHAT THEY'RE DOING. RATHER, THEY'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO IT WITH THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY. AND WE ARE GOING TO BE, QUITE FRANKLY, A WORLDWIDE LEADER IN THIS FORM OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING. AND THAT TECHNOLOGY IS GOING TO BE SOMETHING THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO MARKET AND SELL AND MOVE OUT TO OTHER HEALTHCARE MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. SO...THIS IS REALLY GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEBRASKA, AND I'M THANKFUL THAT SENATOR HILKEMANN AND SENATOR STINNER TOOK THE LEAD ON THIS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR HILKEMANN, LARSON, GROENE, AND BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR HILKEMANN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I RISE TO TALK ABOUT THE INNOVATIVE GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING. WE HAVEN'T TALKED MUCH ABOUT IT. I TRIED TO COME AROUND TO VISIT WITH ALL OF YOU YESTERDAY TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF AN UPDATE ON IT, TRY TO TELL YOU WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN IT. BUT LET ME JUST KIND OF JUST TAKE A FEW MINUTES BECAUSE IT'S A NEW CONCEPT, IT'S A NEW IDEA, AND IT'S WHERE EDUCATION IS GOING. WHAT WE'RE DOING TODAY IS WE'RE UTILIZING \$25 MILLION OF OUR CASH RESERVE DOLLARS TO INVEST IN A \$105 MILLION

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PROJECT WHICH WILL BE FUNDED BY PRIVATE AND CORPORATE DOLLARS. IF WE WERE TO TAKE THIS MONEY AND TAKE IT AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND PUT IT IN TAX RELIEF, YOU'RE GOING TO GET ONE TO ONE. YOU INVEST THE MONEY, YOU'RE GOING TO GET FIVE TO ONE ON YOUR DOLLARS, AND PROBABLY A WHOLE LOT MORE. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THIS BODY GAVE THE SEED MONEY FOR THE BUFFETT CANCER AT THE UNMC CAMPUS. THAT INVESTMENT WAS \$50 MILLION, ALSO FROM THE CASH FUND, AND THAT HAS BEEN MAGNIFIED MANY TIMES OVER AS UNMC HAS BECOME A WORLD LEADER IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER. I AM PLEASED BECAUSE I HAVE SPENT MY ENTIRE PROFESSIONAL LIFE AS A TEACHER AND IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION. THERE IS THE EXPRESSION THAT YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY OFF THE FARM, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THE FARM OUT OF THE BOY. I THINK THE SAME CAN BE SAID ABOUT TEACHING. IF YOU HAVE A HEART FOR TEACHING, IT NEVER LEAVES YOU. AND I'VE BEEN TEACHING RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT MY CAREER. THAT'S THE PLEASANT PART. NOW MY CHALLENGE IS HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE TO ALL OF YOU THE NEWEST CONCEPT IN MEDICAL EDUCATION? HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE VIRTUAL, HIGH-TECH LEARNING WITHOUT YOUR HAVING HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF? BUT LET ME TRY. I'LL TRY IT WITH TWO WORDS. I BELIEVE THE KEY WORDS THAT WE NEED TO BE UTILIZING TODAY, WE USE THE WORD "VIRTUAL LEARNING," BUT WE NEED TO USE THE WORD "EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING." NOW NOTICE I SAID THE WORD "EXPERIENTIAL," NOT EXPERIMENTAL. TODAY'S LEARNERS, THE MILLENNIALS ARE ACTIVE LEARNERS. THEY ARE ENERGIZED BY BEING INTEGRATED INTO THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. WE ARE TEACHING AN XBOX GENERATION. SO THE iEXCEL PROGRAM, WHICH WILL BE HOUSED AT THE CENTER, IS MATCHING THE NEW GENERATION OF LEARNERS. I LOVE THIS TERM: iEXCEL, iEXCEL. THIS IS INDIVIDUALIZED. THIS IS PEOPLE PUTTING IN THEIR OWN ENERGY. IT STANDS FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL EXPERIENTIAL CENTER FOR ENDURING LEARNING. THE CENTER IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE REAL-LIFE VIRTUAL REALITY SCENARIOS WHICH WILL TRANSFORM PERFORMANCE IN HEALTHCARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING. MUCH LIKE THE ADVANCED SIMULATION TRAINING WHICH WE USE IN THE AIRLINE...THE SPACE PROGRAM, THIS CENTER WILL PROVIDE SIMULATED LEARNING SCENARIOS FOR TEACHING MEDICINE. NOT ONLY WILL THE STUDENTS... [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB662]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: ...BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT THE HEART IN THE CLASSROOM. THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY, WE CAN TAKE THEM INSIDE THE HEART SO THEY CAN EXPERIENCE WHAT IT IS LIKE. THESE LEARNING

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OPPORTUNITIES WILL ACCELERATE THEIR LEARNING, WILL LEAD TO HIGHER LEVEL OF MASTERY, AND ALSO THE RETENTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS. ARE WE THE FIRST MEDICAL CENTER TO DO THIS? NO. SENATOR STINNER AND I VISITED A SIMILAR PROTOTYPE CENTER THAT WAS DEVELOPED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER. IF YOU GO ON-LINE, YOU'LL FIND THAT SOME MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS MAY HAVE ONE DEPARTMENT THAT IS DEVELOPED. THIS IS ADVANCED. WE ARE GOING TO BE DOING THE WHOLE TRAINING PROGRAM. AND THE BIGGEST COMPONENT OF THIS SYSTEM, WHAT SETS IT APART FROM ALL THE OTHERS IS THAT NOT ONLY WE WILL HAVE THE CAMPUS IN OMAHA, BUT THIS IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO BE UTILIZED ACROSS THE ENTIRE STATE. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB662]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN. SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW, I THINK PROPERTY TAXES ARE THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND I'LL SUPPORT SENATOR SCHNOOR'S AMENDMENT. WITH THAT, I'D ASK IF SENATOR SCHNOOR WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR SCHNOOR, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: YES, SIR. [LB662]

SENATOR LARSON: SENATOR SCHNOOR, WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER ONE ISSUE THIS YEAR IN THE LEGISLATURE? [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: PROPERTY TAXES. [LB662]

SENATOR LARSON: PROPERTY TAXES. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF? [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: WELL, ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO, YEAH, NOT INCREASE THEM. [LB662]

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SENATOR LARSON: ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP BRING THEM DOWN. [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: YES, SIR. [LB662]

SENATOR LARSON: TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU WILLING TO ACTUALLY TACKLE PROPERTY TAXES? LIKE HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO YOU? [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: WELL, I GUESS THAT'S A TOUGH QUESTION. THAT'S NEVER BEEN ASKED OF ME. BUT... [LB662]

SENATOR LARSON: IF YOU CAN FIND WAYS, ANY WAY TO DO IT, THESE ARE THE WAYS THAT WE...THIS IS THE ISSUE THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: OKAY, YOU'RE GETTING TO SOMETHING AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT MIGHT BE, BUT WHAT IS IT? (LAUGHTER) [LB662]

SENATOR LARSON: WELL, SENATOR SCHNOOR, I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KNOW THAT PROPERTY TAXES ARE YOUR NUMBER ONE ISSUE, AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. I JUST SO HAPPEN TO HAVE A BILL THAT IS COMING UP THAT WILL OFFER PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO ALL OF NEBRASKA. LB619, ESSENTIALLY, IT WILL, HOW DO I WANT TO SAY IT, REGULATE--NOT LEGALIZE BECAUSE IT'S ALREADY LEGAL IN THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTION--BUT IT WILL REGULATE POKER. AND HALF OF EVERY SINGLE HAND GOES DIRECTLY INTO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT RELIEF FUND; 50 PERCENT OF THE STATE'S TAKE ON EVERY SINGLE HAND GOES DIRECTLY INTO THE FUND THAT SENATOR SCHNOOR IS TRYING TO PUT AN EXTRA \$8 MILLION INTO. AND THEN 22 PERCENT WILL GO TO THE LOCAL CITY IN WHICH THE GAME WAS HELD. ANOTHER 22 PERCENT WILL GO TO THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE GAME WAS HELD. AND WHAT WILL THAT DO? THAT IS DIRECT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THAT ENSURES THAT MILL LEVIES CAN CONTINUE TO GO DOWN. IF WE WANT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, IT'S TIME THAT WE DON'T JUST PAY LIP SERVICE TO IT. IT'S TIME THAT WE LOOK AT IDEAS THAT ARE OUTSIDE THE BOX AND HAVE SOLUTIONS. AND LB619 IS ONE OF THOSE SOLUTIONS. AND IT WILL OFFER SIGNIFICANT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACROSS THE ENTIRE STATE. WE ACTUALLY CREATED SOMETHING CALLED SUPER TOURNAMENTS. AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE FIVE OF THESE HOSTED IN NEBRASKA EVERY YEAR. THESE SUPER TOURNAMENTS ARE WHAT WOULD BE KIND OF LIKE WORLD SERIES OF POKER QUALIFICATION EVENTS. YOU'RE LOOKING AT UP TO \$1,000 PER ENTRY. AND IF YOU LOOK AT, YOU KNOW... WE'VE SEEN THESE SUPER TOURNAMENTS OF 1,000 (SIC) PEOPLE AT \$1,000 PER ENTRY,

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ROUGH MATH, THAT'S \$10 MILLION IN THE TAKE THAT'S IN THE TOURNAMENT. THE STATE WILL GET 10 PERCENT OF THAT. THAT MEANS \$1 MILLION IS WHAT THE STATE TAKES; \$500,000 OF THAT GOES DIRECTLY INTO THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT RELIEF FUND, \$500,000. IT MIGHT NOT BE \$8 MILLION, BUT \$500,000 IS NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT. AND IF YOU HAVE FIVE OF THOSE, THAT'S \$2.5 MILLION. AND THEN THE CITIES AND THE COUNTIES ARE GOING TO GET THEIR TAKE TOO. WE HAVE SOMETHING, A NEW IDEA, AN INNOVATIVE IDEA, NOT JUST TAKING MONEY OUT OF THE CASH RESERVE, BUT A REAL, NEW, AND INNOVATIVE IDEA TO LOWER PROPERTY TAXES IN THIS STATE AND HELP THE BURDEN. AND I HOPE WHEN IT COMES UP, THAT PEOPLE JUST DON'T PAY LIP SERVICE TO PROPERTY TAXES BECAUSE I WANT TO ACTUALLY HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM. [LB662 LB619]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB662]

SENATOR LARSON: IS LB619 THE MAGIC BULLET? ABSOLUTELY NOT. WILL LB619 SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM IN THE STATE? ABSOLUTELY NOT. BUT IF WE'RE LOOKING AT WAYS TO WORK TOWARDS IT, IT CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. SO WHEN IT COMES UP, I REALLY HOPE THAT THOSE THAT PAY THE LIP SERVICE TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND THAT THEY...IT IS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE, THEY REMEMBER THAT BECAUSE I WILL OFFER PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, AND WE ALL WILL GET A CHANCE TO VOTE ON IT. THANK YOU. [LB662 LB619]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR LARSON. SENATOR GROENE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: SENATOR HILKEMANN, WOULD YOU ANSWER A QUESTION? [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR HILKEMANN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB662]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: YES, SIR, I WILL. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: IS THIS ONLY GOING TO COST TAXPAYERS \$25 MILLION AND THAT'S IT? [LB662]

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SENATOR HILKEMANN: THAT'S WHAT...WE'RE PUTTING IN THE \$25 MILLION AS SEED MONEY. THAT'S CORRECT. THE REST OF IT IS GOING TO BE GOTTEN THROUGH PRIVATE AND CORPORATE DONATIONS. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU. WELL, I'VE GOT A NEWS RELEASE HERE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, A STORY ON THIS. AND CHANCELLOR JEFF...I'LL READ IT TO YOU: JEFFREY P. GOLD, M.D., TESTIFIED ON BEHALF OF BILLS THAT WOULD FUND THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE GLOBAL CENTER, WHICH WILL BE A NATIONAL LEADER AND RESOURCE IN THE USE OF NEXT-GENERATION TECHNOLOGY; PROVIDE HANDS-ON, COMPETENCY-BASED TRAINING FOR LEARNERS OF ALL AGES, DOC GOLD SAID. SIMULATING CLINICS AND HOSPITAL SPACE WOULD ALLOW OUR STUDENTS AND OTHER PRACTITIONERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS, PRETTY MUCH WHAT SENATOR HILKEMANN SAID. UNMC IS SEEKING \$25 MILLION TO BUILD THE CENTER THROUGH LB662. PRIVATE AND OTHER FUNDS WILL PAY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF \$102 MILLION. AN ACCOMPANYING BILL, LB533, WOULD ALLOCATE \$1.5 MILLION IN '15-16, \$3 MILLION IN '16-17, AND \$5 MILLION A YEAR THEREAFTER TO OPERATE THE CENTER. TWENTY-FIVE MILLION, HUH? EVERY DOCTOR IS NOW GETTING TRAINING, DOING JUST FINE, HANDS ON. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD MEDICAL HEALTH IS A PERSON-TO-PERSON PRACTICE. IT'S A SCIENCE OF THE HUMAN. THIS THING IS GOING TO TAKE AWAY FROM THE...I FOUND THAT FUNNY. I HEARD THEY DIDN'T WANT THE INTERNS AND THE CLINICAL STUDIES TO HARM PATIENTS. WE JUST TALKED ABOUT THE DENTAL SCHOOL, SO THAT LOW-INCOME PEOPLE COULD BE TREATED FOR DENTAL CARE BY THE DENTISTS IN TRAINING. SO NOW WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THAT AWAY FROM THE LOW-INCOME FOLKS THAT COME INTO THE CLINIC, AND WE'RE GOING TO BE WORKING ON ROBOTS NOW. I DID A LITTLE RESEARCH. I LIKE TO DO RESEARCH. I DON'T HAVE A Ph.D. EITHER, AND I'M CAPABLE OF DOING IT--AMAZING. FORBES UNIVERSITY (SIC) RANKS UNL OVERALL 280th AS COLLEGES. TOLEDO IS 628th. RESEARCH: UNL IS 116th, TOLEDO IS 245th. MIDWEST: THEY RATED NEBRASKA 65, TOLEDO 155. I MENTIONED HARVARD. BEST MEDICAL SCHOOL RESEARCH, NUMBER ONE HARVARD; NUMBER TWO, STANFORD; NUMBER THREE, JOHNS HOPKINS; NUMBER THREE, TIED, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA; UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA IS FIFTH; WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. IT PRETTY MUCH...THIS IS THE U.S. NEWS AND MEDICAL (SIC) REPORT IN 2015. I COULD KEEP READING THEM. NEBRASKA, WE GET DOWN TO ABOUT 60th I THINK IT IS. NUMBER 60 IS WHERE WE'RE RATED. THAT'S FINE. IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. I'VE BEEN TREATED WELL BY THE DOCTORS THAT GRADUATED FROM THERE. I DON'T WANT TO BE NUMBER ONE. WE'RE ONLY 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE. MY AIDE, I HAD

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HIM CALL THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO AND FIND OUT HOW THEY'RE DOING WITH THEIR EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING COMMUNITY. EXCUSE ME IF I BUTCHER THIS NAME, SABINA ELIZONDO-SERRATOS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO, CENTER FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND CAREER SERVICES. THE ADVANCED SIMULATION COMPONENT--THIS IS HER QUOTE-- SIMULATION COMPONENT OF THE CENTER IS COMPRISED OF MULTIPLE SIMULATION CENTERS DESIGNED TO GIVE STUDENTS HANDS-ON TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE. [LB662 LB533]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: THESE CENTERS WERE OPENED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR. AND THE FIRST ROUND OF ASSESSMENTS AND FEEDBACK AS TO THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IS NOT DUE FOR ANOTHER FEW MONTHS. SHE TOOK OUR CONTACT INFORMATION, WILL PROVIDE THE OFFICE LATER. ONE-TIME EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY BY THE 268th RATED UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES, AND WE'RE GOING TO EMULATE THEM WITH \$105 MILLION OF INVESTMENT. WHERE DOES THIS COME FROM, FOLKS? ARE WE SO INSECURE THAT WE DON'T THINK WE CAN RUB ELBOWS AT THE WINE AND CHEESE PARTIES WITH THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, THAT WE'VE GOT TO CHASE THESE WILD GOOSE PROJECTS AND THROW MONEY AT THEM? I HAPPEN TO FEEL PRETTY GOOD ABOUT BEING NEBRASKAN, AND I DON'T NEED TO WORRY IF I KEEP UP WITH THE JONESES. THIS THING IS PIE IN THE SKY. IT'S NOT BEEN PROVEN. AND WE'RE... [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: ...GOING TO EMULATE IT. THANK YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR HILKEMANN, WATERMEIER, AND KOLOWSKI. SENATOR HILKEMANN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. SENATOR GROENE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THAT DATA. THAT CERTAINLY IS NOT ANYWHERE CLOSE TO ANY OF THE DATA THAT I'VE EVER SEEN ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA. AND I WILL HAVE DATA AVAILABLE HERE QUITE SOON ON THAT PARTICULAR AREA. LET ME JUST FINISH UP A LITTLE BIT MY INTRODUCTION HERE ON WHAT THE GLOBAL CENTER IS GOING TO ACCOMPLISH FOR US. THE

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BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR CENTER AND WHAT WAS DEVELOPED AT TOLEDO IS THIS HUB-AND-SPOKE MODEL, THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO HAVE UNMC CAMPUSES AT LINCOLN, KEARNEY, SCOTTSBLUFF, AND NORFOLK, AS WELL AS SHOULD THE UNMC'S PRIMARY CLINICAL PARTNER, THE NEBRASKA MEDICINE AND ITS REGIONAL HEALTH PARTNERS WHO ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO WORK THIS ALL TOGETHER. IT WILL SERVE AS A RESOURCE TO NEBRASKA'S STATE COLLEGES AND THE MILITARY WHILE BOLSTERING CONTINUING EDUCATION AND STATEWIDE TRAINING FOR ALL NEBRASKA HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS. NOW LET ME... THAT'S JUST KIND OF GIVING YOU A LITTLE OVERVIEW OF THE CENTER. LET ME JUST LIST A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT I THINK ARE GOING TO BE THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS GLOBAL CENTER. WE WILL NOT ONLY BE TRAINING PHYSICIANS, WE ARE GOING TO BE TRAINING HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND PROVIDING MULTIDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM. VIRTUAL LEARNING CAN BE ADAPTED FOR LEARNERS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES. SECONDLY, THIS CENTER WILL HELP UNMC RECRUIT THE FINEST PROFESSORS AND RESEARCHERS. WHEN YOU ARE A TEACHER, YOU WANT TO HAVE THE BEST LEARNING TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR STUDENTS, AND THIS IS GOING TO BE STATE OF THE ART. WE ARE GOING TO ATTRACT THE BEST. THIS IS GOING TO INCREASE MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT MONEY. I'M TALKING ABOUT RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS THAT WILL BE COMING FROM THE UNIVERSITY. LET ME STRESS, THIS WILL HELP PROVIDE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND NATION WITH THIS HUB-AND-SPOKE CONCEPT. WE WILL HAVE BETTER-TRAINED HEALTHCARE WORKERS THROUGHOUT OUR SYSTEM. DR. GOLD, THE CHANCELLOR AT UNMC, HAS A WONDERFUL GOAL THAT HE STATED TO US, AND THAT IS HE WANTS NEBRASKA TO BE THE HEALTHIEST STATE IN THE NATION. THIS CENTER WILL HELP US REACH THIS GOAL. THE CENTER WILL COMPLEMENT THE STRIDES THAT WE HAVE ALREADY MADE IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE, IN CANCER, BIOCONTAINMENT. I BELIEVE THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES THIS WILL BRING TO OUR STATE ARE INNUMERABLE. I JUST PASSED OUT A FLIER WITH SOME OF THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF UNMC'S PRESENT SYSTEM. THIS IS ONLY GOING TO AUGMENT THAT. ALSO, YESTERDAY WHEN I WAS GOING BY, I ATTACHED AN EDITORIAL THAT WAS DONE IN THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD. IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT, I HAVE ADDITIONAL COPIES UP HERE AND WOULD SHARE IT WITH YOU. I THINK IT HIGHLIGHTED. THE WRITER OF THAT EDITORIAL SPENT TIME CONTACTING THE DIFFERENT MEDICAL SPECIALTIES, AND READ WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT WHAT THIS IS GOING TO DO FOR EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MED CENTER. THIS CENTER, GLOBAL CENTER WILL MAKE UNMC THE LEADING LIGHT IN

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EDUCATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY. AND IT IS AN INVESTMENT I URGE THIS BODY TO MAKE. THANK YOU,... [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB662]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: ...MR. SPEAKER. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN. SENATOR WATERMEIER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD EVENING, NEBRASKA. I APPRECIATE SENATOR SCHNOOR'S EFFORT TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. I REALLY DO APPRECIATE THAT. AND IT'S HARD FOR ME TO STAND UP HERE AND SPEAKING AGAINST AMENDMENT OR A PROPOSITION THAT WOULD INCREASE THAT. I REALLY AM. BUT I HAVE TO STAND OPPOSED TO AM1465, WHICH IS DIRECTLY TO THE \$8 MILLION OF THE CREIGHTON FUNDING...EXCUSE ME, THE DENTAL CLINIC FUNDING AND \$25 MILLION ON YOUR NEXT AMENDMENT TO THE UNMC PROJECT. SO I'M GOING TO STAND OPPOSED TO BOTH THOSE AMENDMENTS. AND IT REALLY IS HARD FOR ME TO SAY THAT. BUT LET ME JUST BACK UP A LITTLE BIT TO WHAT BOTH THOSE PROJECTS MEAN TO ME. THEY'RE SO TOTALLY DIFFERENT. BUT I AM ALL ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND I'VE SAID BEFORE, WHEN I SAY INFRASTRUCTURE, I MEAN INFRASTRUCTURE IN WATER, UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE, ELECTRONIC DATA COLLECTION, BUT ALSO INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY. AND SO WHEN I HAD A CHANCE TO BE INVOLVED IN LOOKING AT THESE PROJECTS, IT BECAME CLEAR TO ME THAT THEY BOTH NEED TO BE INVESTED IN. BUT THEY'RE SO DIFFERENT. UNMC IS GOING TO BE FOR A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT IN THE EDUCATION OF FUTURE PROVIDERS IN THIS STATE. THAT'S...BUT IT IS GOING TO HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF ONGOING FUNDING. WE DID...I APOLOGIZE IF ANYBODY DIDN'T CATCH THAT, BUT THE \$25 MILLION IS NOT THE END OF THAT. IT'S \$25 MILLION OUT OF THE CASH RESERVE AND THEN WE ARE GOING TO RAMP UP TO SUPPORT THAT PROJECT FOR THE UNIVERSITY. THE \$8 MILLION TO THE FUTURE DENTAL CLINIC WILL BE A ONE-TIME FUND AND THAT WILL END AT THAT POINT IN TIME. BUT IT WILL PROVIDE HEALTHCARE IN THE OMAHA AREA AND ACROSS THE STATE. IT WILL PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE RURAL AREAS AND IT WILL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE HEALTH CLINICS. TWO DIFFERENT PROJECTS, AND I REALLY WILL DESCRIBE THEM IN THIS WAY. THE UNMC PROJECT IS A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND TEACHING; THE

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DENTAL CLINIC IS A SHORT-TERM INVESTMENT...A SHORT-TERM PAYBACK BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN RIGHT AWAY. THAT VERY FIRST YEAR, THEY WILL HAVE NEW SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN OUT TO PROVIDERS AND THEY WILL ALSO HAVE ADDED CAPACITY RIGHT THERE IN OMAHA. IN MY BUSINESS, IT'S A HARD DECISION AT TIMES TO REINVEST CAPITAL THAT NEEDS TO GO INTO LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS. IT'S NOT AN EASY DECISION BECAUSE IT TAKES YEARS AND YEARS TO PAY IT OFF. BUT IN MY BUSINESS, YOU HAVE TO BALANCE THOSE DECISIONS OUT. ARE THEY SHORT-TERM DECISIONS THAT WILL PAY BACK REALLY QUICKLY? AND SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO INVEST IN THE 20-YEAR DECISIONS, WHICH ARE TOUGH. AND THAT'S GOOD THAT WE ARE HAVING THIS DISCUSSION TONIGHT BECAUSE THIS IS A LONG-TERM DECISION THAT WILL PAY BENEFITS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME. AND IT'S HARD FOR ME NOT TO WANT TO INCREASE THE PROPERTY TAX FUND. IT REALLY IS. BUT IT IS NOT GOOD FISCAL POLICY TO TAKE FUNDS OUT OF THE CASH RESERVE AND FUND THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. I STAND OPPOSED TO THAT PRINCIPLE. AND IT'S A BETTER INVESTMENT, I BELIEVE, FOR NEBRASKA TO INVEST IN THESE TWO PROJECTS. AND I WOULD ASK THE BODY TO REJECT THIS AMENDMENT AND THE NEXT ONE THAT WILL FOLLOW. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR WATERMEIER. SENATOR KOLOWSKI, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD EVENING, SENATORS. I WANTED TO ASK YOU HOW MANY OF YOU RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING WORDS--WATER FOR FOOD, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING--THINGS THAT NEBRASKA, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SYSTEM IS VERY WELL KNOWN FOR, WORLDWIDE IN FACT, ESPECIALLY WITH THE WATER FOR FOOD PROGRAM AND WHAT'S TAKEN PLACE IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA AND THEN THE GROWTH AND EXPANSION THAT WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO IN EARLY CHILD EDUCATION IN THIS STATE OVER THE NEXT DECADES. TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN WELL ESTABLISHED FOR OVER A COUPLE OF DECADES NOW, AND WE PRODUCE MANY HIGHLY QUALIFIED, HIGHLY TALENTED INDIVIDUALS, MALE AND FEMALE, THAT WORK IN THAT CAPACITY THROUGHOUT OUR CITIES AND THROUGHOUT OUR STATE AND REGION. THE MEDICAL CENTER WITH THE CANCER CENTER AND THE WORK ON EBOLA IN THIS LAST YEAR GAVE US NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE FOR OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AND FOR THE MEDICAL CENTER. YOU CAN'T BUY THAT KIND OF COVERAGE AND WHAT WE GAINED AS FAR AS RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FROM A NUMBER OF PLACES THAT I HEARD FROM WITHIN THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS OTHER AREAS AS FAR AS THE GAINS WE

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MADE. OUR CITY, OUR STATE, OUR REGION BENEFITS FROM THIS KIND OF EXTENSIVE MACHINERY THAT'S AVAILABLE IN TECHNOLOGY TODAY TO BE USED IN MEDICAL EDUCATION. LET'S PUT A REVERSE ON THIS. IF WE DON'T LIKE THIS, WHAT'S NEXT? WE COME BACK IN AND SAY, YOU KNOW, WE'RE GOING TO PASS A LITTLE RULE HERE THAT SAYS NO TECHNOLOGY CAN BE SOLD TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS. WE'RE JUST GOING TO GO BY HOW WE WERE ALL RAISED AND HOW WE WERE DEALING WITH THE WORLD AROUND US AND NOT HAVE ANY HANDS-ON TECHNOLOGY. WOULD WE AGREE TO THAT, OR WOULD THAT BE A THROWBACK? I DON'T THINK ANY ONE OF US IN HERE FOR OURSELVES, FOR OUR CHILDREN, OR FOR GRANDCHILDREN WOULD AGREE THAT THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO GO. WHAT KIND OF MENTALITY ARE WE DEALING WITH? I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE MED CENTER, WHAT THEY'VE ACCOMPLISHED, WHAT THEY STAND FOR, WHY WE HAVE SUCH THINGS AS OFFUTT AIR BASE AND OTHER TOP 100, TOP 50 CORPORATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHEN WE HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THE MEDICAL CENTER AND THE GREAT WORK THAT THEY DO. I STAND TOTALLY FOR THE LB662 AND AGAINST THE TWO AMENDMENTS THAT ARE BEFORE US AT THIS TIME. I ALSO SURRENDER...GIVE THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR HILKEMANN IF HE WOULD LIKE IT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR HILKEMANN, 2:00. [LB662]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLOWSKI. I WILL TAKE THAT. IT'S BEING PASSED OUT TO YOU RIGHT NOW. I DID NOT WANT TO IMMEDIATELY CHALLENGE THAT, BUT YOU WILL SEE THAT BY THE U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKS UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA'S FAMILY MEDICINE NUMBER FOUR IN THE NATION--NUMBER FOUR IN THE NATION FOR PRIMARY CARE. IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT WE NEED IN NEBRASKA, PARTICULARLY RURAL NEBRASKA, IT'S PRIMARY CARE. AND OUR UNIVERSITY IS TURNING OUT THE BEST PEOPLE. SO YOU WILL BE GETTING THAT SO THAT YOU CAN READ THAT FOR YOURSELF. THINK OF THE...USE SOME COMMON SENSE HERE WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE LEVERAGING. THIS IS SEED MONEY. THIS IS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE VENTURE. SO WE PUT IN \$25 MILLION AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE PEOPLE, INDIVIDUALS, AND CORPORATIONS WHICH ARE GOING TO GIVE US ANOTHER ALMOST \$80 MILLION FOR SURE AND PROBABLY MORE THAN THAT BECAUSE THIS CENTER, WHILE IT'S NOT...THERE ARE SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL THINGS THAT MAY BE ADDED TO IT THAT I DON'T WANT TO PROMISE THINGS THAT MAY NOT BE THERE. BUT THIS IS A TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT. AND WITH THAT, I'LL CLOSE. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. [LB662]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD EVENING, COLLEAGUES. I'M GETTING THE MESSAGE THAT THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS. KEEP MY REMARKS SHORT BECAUSE A VOTE IS COMING UP SOON. I WILL DO THAT. I RESPECT A SINGLE-MINDED DEVOTION THAT SENATOR SCHNOOR, LARSON, BLOOMFIELD, AND GROENE HAVE ON PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THAT'S A NOBLE THING, AND I'M GLAD WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO SOME OF THAT THIS YEAR. BUT AS MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE SENATOR WILLIAMS WILL SAY, YOU NEED TO TRUST THE PROCESS. I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR DR. GOLD AT UNMC. I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR THE DONORS THAT ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THIS PROJECT, AND I KNOW THAT THEY'RE FAIRLY DISCRIMINATING ON HOW THEY SPEND THEIR MONEY. AND I HAVE VERY GREAT RESPECT FOR MY FELLOW COLLEAGUES, STINNER AND SENATOR MELLO AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. SO WITH THAT, I THINK WE SHOULD TRUST THE PROCESS, MOVE FORWARD, REJECT THE AMENDMENTS, AND PASS THE BILL. THANK YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR HILKEMANN AND MYSELF USED THE SAME U.S. WORLD NEWS RATINGS. IT'S THE NUMBER ONE RATINGS. MY NUMBER ON 60 WAS RESEARCH HOSPITALS, CLINICAL RESEARCH. HIS WAS ON THE MEDICAL SCHOOL PRIMARY CARE. I'LL REMIND YOU THIS IS A VERY EXPERIMENTAL THING. WE ARE PUTTING \$25 MILLION INTO AN IDEAL THAT HASN'T BEEN PROVEN, THIS VIRTUAL MEDICAL TRAINING FACILITY. I WOULD ALSO REMIND YOU OF A LITTLE VENTURE CALLED INNOVATIVE CAMPUS. TWENTY-FIVE MILLION, FOLKS, THAT'S ALL WE'LL NEED, TWENTY-FIVE MILLION SEED MONEY. WE'LL NEVER COME BACK. WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING. WE'RE Ph.D's. WE KNOW HOW TO MANAGE CORPORATIONS AND BIG BUSINESS. WE'LL NEVER COME BACK. HOW MANY TIMES THEY BEEN BACK? AND THANK GOODNESS FOR THE PRESENT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. THEY WERE TOLD EARLY ON, NO, NOT THIS TIME. IN FACT, THEY DID SOMETHING WISE AND THEY'RE GOING TO DO AN INTERIM STUDY TO FIND OUT HOW DEEP IN THE HOLE AND HOW FEASIBLE AND LONG RANGE THE INNOVATIVE CAMPUS IS. IT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I'LL AGREE, IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN LINCOLN AND OMAHA AND THE CRANE, THE CONSTRUCTION CRANES ARE ABOVE YOUR CITY BUILDING IT, IF THE SIX-FIGURE INCOME EMPLOYEES ARE LIVING IN YOUR

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TOWN. AND I KNOW YOU GUYS DO IT FOR US OUT IN THE RURAL AREAS. YOU'RE GOING TO SEND A SATELLITE OUT THERE. AND EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, YOU SEND A CAR OUT THERE WITH AN EXPERT IN IT AND THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF US POOR RURAL FOLKS. BUT WE DO PAY TAXES TOO. SO WE DO GET A LITTLE CONCERNED. QUITE FRANKLY, FOLKS, EVERYBODY ABOUT NORTH PLATTE WEST GOES TO DENVER AND GREELEY FOR OUR MAJOR SURGERIES. IT'S JUST CLOSER, GOOD FACILITIES. SO I KNOW IT'S NICE FOR YOU GUYS TO BUILD MORE STRUCTURES WITH TAX DOLLARS. IT GIVES GOOD CONSTRUCTION JOBS, I UNDERSTAND THAT. AND IT BUILDS NICE...MORE EMPLOYEES AT THE INSTITUTIONS. BUT I CAN TRUST A DOCTOR WHO DOES IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY AND LEARNED THE OTHER WAY. I HEARD THEY'RE GOING TO TRAIN THEM NOW. THEY'RE FINALLY GOING TO TRAIN DOCTORS. THEY NEVER DID IT BEFORE, I GUESS. THEY JUST GAVE THEM A DEGREE AND SENT THEM OUT THERE. I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT, BUT I'VE BEEN PRETTY LUCKY. I'VE HAD ONES THAT FIGURED IT OUT WITHOUT ANY TRAINING. SO THIS IS JUST VIRTUAL REALITY, FOLKS. THE HUMAN BODY HASN'T EVOLVED. THE TEXTBOOKS STILL WORK. AND I WOULD GUARANTEE YOU MOST DOCTORS WOULD RATHER TRAIN UNDER RESIDENCY UNDER SOMEBODY WHO HAD EXPERIENCE THAN ON A COMPUTER. THEY WOULD RATHER TRAIN UNDER A DOCTOR WHO'S MADE MISTAKES, THAT'S GOT SOME WHITE HAIR TO HIM THAN IN A VIRTUAL REALITY BUILDING. SO ANYWAY, I WOULD URGE YOU TO SUPPORT SENATOR SCHNOOR'S AMENDMENT. I KNOW THIS ONE, THE FIRST ONE IS ON THE \$8 MILLION. REMEMBER WHOSE MONEY THAT IS. AND I'M CONFUSED WHEN SOMEBODY SAYS IT'S A ONE-TIME DEAL AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GET IT NEXT TIME. AND WE JUST CAN'T DO THAT. IF YOU TAKE \$8 MILLION OUT OF THE CASH RESERVES AND YOU GIVE IT TO CREIGHTON OR \$25 MILLION AND GIVE IT TO THE UNIVERSITY VERSUS \$25 MILLION OR \$8 MILLION TO THE TAXPAYERS, THE CASH RESERVE IS STILL SPENT DOWN. SO THAT LOGIC, I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT YET. YOU'VE STILL LOWERED THE CASH RESERVE. AND THOSE OF US THAT ARE IN THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM... [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: ...OUR INCOMES DO FLUCTUATE. SO IF WE GET A TAX BREAK THIS YEAR, WE UNDERSTAND IF THE SAME TAX BREAK AIN'T THERE NEXT YEAR. BUT IT SURE WOULD BE NICE TO GET IT THIS YEAR. AND OUR HEARTS WON'T BE BROKEN IF YOU CAN'T GIVE OUR MONEY BACK--OUR MONEY BACK, AGAIN, NOT YOUR MONEY--THE FOLLOWING YEAR. IT'S REALLY CONSIDERATE OF YOU THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO GET OUR FEELINGS HURT BECAUSE WE WOULDN'T GET THE TAX BREAK THE NEXT YEAR. I KNOW THAT'S VERY...YOU'RE DOING IT OUT OF

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THE KINDNESS OF YOUR HEART AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE TAXPAYER, BUT THEY CAN HANDLE IT. JUST GIVE THEM THEIR MONEY BACK. THANK YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M KIND OF LOOKING TO SEE HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AROUND OR NOT AROUND, BUT I'D LIKE TO ASK FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE AND THEN WE'LL JUST DO A SIMPLE MACHINE VOTE. AND THEN WHILE WE'RE WAITING, I'LL GIVE MY CLOSING. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB662]

CLERK: 35 AYES, 0 NAYS TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL THOSE UNEXCUSED SENATORS PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS NORDQUIST, BURKE HARR, SENATOR CRAWFORD, COULD YOU CHECK IN, PLEASE. SENATOR MURANTE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. AND YOU CAN PROCEED WITH YOUR CLOSING. [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU. I DIDN'T WANT SENATOR CHAMBERS TO SIT IN HIS OFFICE. I WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE GOT UP HERE. SO I HAD TO HOLD HIM ACCOUNTABLE. (LAUGHTER) OKAY, SENATOR LARSON, YOU GOT ME ON THAT ONE BECAUSE I ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO TALK ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS. (LAUGHTER) BUT THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. SENATOR MELLO SAID THAT HE STILL LOVES ME AFTER I DROPPED AN AMENDMENT ON HIM WITHOUT TELLING HIM. I GUESS, SENATOR MELLO, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE SEEN HEARTBREAK RIDGE, BUT IN THE FAMOUS WORDS OF CLINT EASTWOOD, THERE WILL BE NO LONG, HOT SHOWERS IN THE MORNING, EVEN THOUGH YOU STILL LOVE ME. BUT SIMPLY, I'D JUST LIKE TO SEE THIS MONEY GO BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS. AND I REALLY KNEW GOING INTO THIS THAT THE CHANCE OF THIS HAPPENING WAS PRETTY NIL. I'VE BEEN TOLD TIME

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AND TIME AGAIN THAT TO OVERRIDE ANYTHING ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE GENERALLY DOESN'T HAPPEN. BUT I TRULY BELIEVE THIS IS THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY. LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO THEM. THIS AMENDMENT AND THE NEXT ONE IS THE SAME THING. I COULD HAVE JUST PUT THEM TOGETHER TO JUST GO THROUGH THIS ONCE. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN WITH THE \$8 MILLION GOING TO...THAT WAS TALKED ABOUT FOR THE...INITIALLY GOING TO CREIGHTON. AND I CAN'T DENY ANYTHING THAT SENATOR HILKEMANN HAS SAID. BUT SENATOR GROENE BROUGHT UP SOME GOOD POINTS ABOUT THE INNOVATION CAMPUS AND HOW THAT INITIAL MONEY JUST KEEPS HAPPENING. BUT IN ESSENCE, THIS IS EXCESS MONEY. I'D LIKE TO SEE IT GO BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS AND THAT'S SIMPLY WHERE I STAND. SO WITH THAT, THAT IS MY CLOSE, SIR. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM1465. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. AND YOU JUST WANTED A BOARD VOTE. IS THAT CORRECT? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB662]

CLERK: 13 AYES, 22 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THE AMENDMENT FAILS. RAISE THE CALL, PLEASE. [LB662]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR SCHNOOR WOULD MOVE TO AMEND WITH AM1463. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1348.) [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN. [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU. A LOT OF THE ARGUMENTS HAVE ALL BEEN GIVEN ON AM1463. IT'S THE EXACTLY THE SAME THING, JUST A DIFFERENT AMOUNT. LIKE I SAID, I COULD HAVE PUT THEM BOTH TOGETHER. IT'S SIMPLY GIVING THE MONEY BACK TO THE PEOPLE. ONCE AGAIN, IT'S THE MONEY THAT'S GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY. AND YOU CAN'T DENY THAT THE UNIVERSITY, OR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY FOR THAT MATTER, ARE DOING GREAT THINGS, NO DENYING THAT WHATSOEVER. BUT THIS IS EXCESS MONEY IN THE CASH RESERVE. I'D JUST LIKE IT TO GO BACK TO THE PEOPLE. I DON'T EXPECT THERE TO BE A LONG, CONTROVERSIAL ARGUMENT ON THIS. IN FACT, SIMPLY I WOULD

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JUST AS SOON THAT WE JUST VOTE ON THIS RIGHT NOW AND PRESS ON. THANK YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: I'D LIKE THAT, TOO, BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE QUEUE. (LAUGHTER) SO, SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB662]

SENATOR GROENE: GIVE ME A HEADS UP, SENATOR SCHNOOR. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO STAND ANYMORE. MY VOICE IS...BUT I NEEDED TO SUPPORT YOU. I HEARD ON THIS PODIUM HERE THAT YOU'D GIVE IT BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS, THAT'S A ONE-ON-ONE RETURN. YOU GIVE IT TO THE GOVERNMENT, IT'S FOUR TO FIVE ON ONE. I'M TRYING TO FIGURE THAT ONE OUT BECAUSE I KNOW IF I GOT AN EXTRA BUCK IN MY POCKET, AND I'M NOT THERE MAKING THAT \$160,000, \$180,000 AT THE MED CENTER. SO I'M PROBABLY GOING TO GO EAT AT THE CAFE WHERE THAT PERSON IS MAKING THAT MINIMUM WAGE. AND THEN THAT PERSON WITH THE MINIMUM WAGE IN MY TOWN IS GOING TO GO DOWN TO THE GROCERY STORE AND BUY SOME GROCERIES. AND THEN THEY'RE GOING TO GO TO OUR LITTLE DOCTORS THERE. YOU KNOW, WE'RE BACKWARDS, BUT WE'VE GOT THEM THERE, AND THEY'RE GOING TO SPEND THAT. SO THERE'S THREE TIMES WE DID IT ALREADY. I COULD GO ON AND ON. BUT AGAIN, GOVERNMENT KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR MONEY, WITH OUR MONEY. SO THEY PROBABLY KNOW WE'LL TURN THAT MONEY FOUR OR FIVE TIMES AND US SIMPLE FOLKS, I DON'T KNOW, WE'LL DIG A HOLE AND BURY IT PROBABLY, AND THERE IS YOUR ONE ON ONE, ONE-FOR-ONE RETURN. YOU LEAVE THE MONEY WITH THE TAXPAYERS AND THAT'S THE MOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT YOU CAN DO. YOU WANT TO GROW AN ECONOMY, YOU GIVE IT TO EVERYBODY. YOU DON'T GIVE IT TO A FEW HIGH-INCOME EARNERS THAT WORK FOR THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. YOU GIVE IT TO "JOE SIX-PACK." YOU GIVE IT TO THE WAITRESS. THAT'S WHY I'M TALKING ABOUT BEING A DEMOCRAT. MY GOSH. I'M NOT A ROCKEFELLER REPUBLICAN, I'LL TELL YOU THAT MUCH. BUT LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS WHERE IT BELONGS. IT'S THEIR MONEY. IT ISN'T FOUND MONEY THAT WE CAN RUN AROUND AND DO THESE SPECIAL PROJECTS AND THEN PAT OURSELVES ON THE BACK. YOU TOOK THE MONEY FALSELY FROM THEM. YOU OVERCHARGED THEM IN PAST YEARS. THEY DID NOT GIVE YOU THE AUTHORITY TO SPEND THAT. YOU TOLD THEM IN PAST YEARS THAT THIS MONEY WAS GOING TO PAY FOR THIS BUDGET. YOU OVERCHARGED THEM. GIVE IT BACK TO THEM. THANK YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD IS RECOGNIZED [LB662]

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SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD EVENING, COLLEAGUES. IT'S NICE TO HAVE A COUPLE OTHER PEOPLE HELPING ME KICK THIS DEAD HORSE. WE CANNOT GET TO WHERE WE'RE NOT GOING TO SPEND THIS MONEY, AS MUCH AS I WOULD LOVE TO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. [LB662]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU. LIKE I SAY, I JUST WANT TO GIVE THIS MONEY BACK TO THE PEOPLE. SO THAT'S MY CLOSING. THANK YOU. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM1463. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB662]

CLERK: 14 AYES, 20 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE AMENDMENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THE AMENDMENT IS NOT ADOPTED. [LB662]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NOBODY ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB662]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. ONCE AGAIN, AM1246 IS THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE USE OF THE CASH RESERVE FUND. AS I DISCUSSED, IT IS A TRANSFER OF \$5.5 MILLION TO THE REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT LITIGATION CONTINGENCY FUND, \$17 MILLION TO THE GENERAL FUND TO COVER THE TITLE IV-E DISALLOWANCE FEDERAL PAYMENT DUE TO MISCALCULATIONS AND MISSPENDING WITHIN THE CHILD WELFARE PRIVATIZATION EFFORT A FEW YEARS AGO, THE \$8 MILLION TO THE ORAL HEALTH TRAINING AND SERVICES FUND, AND \$25 MILLION TO THE NEBRASKA CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER'S GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL

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LEARNING. WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADOPT AM1246. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB662]

CLERK: 37 AYES, 1 NAY ON ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB662]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LB662. [LB662]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THIS WILL BE THE LAST OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE BUDGET BILLS WITH THE ADOPTION OF LB662...OR ADVANCEMENT, I SHOULD SAY, TO SELECT FILE. ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE SOME WORK AHEAD OF US THE REMAINDER OF THE SESSION. I DO FEEL IT'S PROBABLY APPROPRIATE NOW THAT WE'RE AT THE OF THIS PROCESS AND, TO SOME EXTENT, THE MEDIA STARTED TO REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF TODAY'S NEBRASKA ECONOMIC FORECASTING BOARD. MUCH TO MY SURPRISE AND IN TALKING WITH MANY OF YOU OFF AND ON THE MIKE, MUCH TO THE SURPRISE OF MANY OF US, THE FORECASTING BOARD DID NOT REDUCE REVENUES. THEY SIMPLY GAVE US BACK, GIVE OR TAKE, THE \$10 MILLION IN REVENUES THAT WAS REDUCED BACK FROM THE FEBRUARY FORECAST. SO GIVE OR TAKE, OUR PROJECTIONS ARE VERY SIMILAR TO WHERE THEY WERE BACK IN FEBRUARY WITH ONE ADDITION. THEY DID INCREASE THE CURRENT YEAR FISCAL REVENUES BY ROUGHLY \$12 MILLION. THAT \$12 MILLION WILL BE DIRECTLY...IF THE AMOUNT COMES IN PER THE REVENUE FORECASTING BOARD'S PREDICTIONS, WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CASH RESERVE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. I WANTED TO GIVE EVERYONE A GENERAL PRIMER ON THAT. WE'LL SEND OUT AN OFFICIAL E-MAIL FROM THE FISCAL OFFICE WHEN WE'RE ABLE TO CALCULATE ALL OF THE NEW NUMBERS BASED ON WHAT THE FORECASTING BOARD DID. BUT I KNOW THAT WAS SOME OF THE CONSIDERATION THAT I ASKED EVERYONE TO CONSIDER. AND MOVING FORWARD, THAT WILL HAVE OBVIOUSLY AN IMPACT ON THE

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GREEN SHEET, AS WELL AS WHAT WE CONSIDER MOVING FORWARD ON BILLS OUTSIDE OF THE BUDGET. WITH THAT, I THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR YOUR ATTENTIVENESS TODAY, THE GOOD DEBATE. MY HOPE IS THAT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT FILE TO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GRAB MYSELF OR A MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. AND I'D URGE YOU ADVANCE LB662. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON LB662. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB662]

CLERK: 39 AYES, 3 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB662, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB662]

SENATOR KRIST: LB662 ADVANCES. [LB662]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, IF I MAY BEFORE WE PROCEED TO THE NEXT BILL: SENATOR HAAR, AN AMENDMENT TO LB175; SENATOR BAKER TO LB525. NEW RESOLUTIONS: SENATOR CRAWFORD, LR224, LR225. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1348-1350.) [LB175 LB525 LR224 LR225]

MR. PRESIDENT, LB663, INTRODUCED BY THE SPEAKER AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED IN JANUARY, REFERRED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. (AM885, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 955.) [LB663]

SENATOR KRIST: SPEAKER HADLEY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB663. [LB663]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, THIS HAS BEEN A LONG DAY. YESTERDAY WAS A LONG DAY. WE GET THROUGH THIS BILL AND THE A BILL, WE WILL ADJOURN FOR THE NIGHT. I WAS ASKED TO INTRODUCE LB663 AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR AS PART OF MY RESPONSIBILITY AS SPEAKER, AS OUTLINED IN RULE 5, SECTION 8 OF THE LEGISLATURE'S RULES. LB663 IS A PART OF THE GOVERNOR'S BIENNIAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS. THIS IS THE ONLY BILL INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET BILL PACKAGE THAT WAS NOT CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. THE JUDGES' SALARY BILL WAS REFERENCED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND VOTED OUT WITH A JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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AMENDMENT CHANGING THE SALARY INCREASES. THE BILL INCREASES THE SALARIES OF THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. IN ADDITION TO INCREASING THE SALARIES OF THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, THE BILL WILL RESULT IN SALARY INCREASES FOR JUDGES OF THE APPEALS COURT, THE DISTRICT COURT, THE SEPARATE JUVENILE COURT, WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT, AND THE COUNTY COURT WHOSE SALARIES ARE LAID OUT IN STATUTE AS A FIXED PERCENTAGE TIED TO THE SALARY OF THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES. I ASK FOR YOUR GREEN VOTE ON THE BILL AND THE AMENDMENT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB663]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. SENATOR SEILER, AS THE CHAIR OF JUDICIARY, PLEASE OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB663]

SENATOR SEILER: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE UNICAMERAL, AM8...WELL, I SHOULD START WITH LB297 WAS INTRODUCED BY ME ON BEHALF OF THE SUPREME COURT. AND THEY WERE ASKING FOR 4.5 (PERCENT) FOR TWO YEARS, EACH YEAR. AND SPEAKER HADLEY'S BILL WAS 2.25 (PERCENT) FOR TWO...AND 2.4 (PERCENT) IN THE SECOND YEAR. AM885 IS A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE SUPREME COURT AND THE GOVERNOR AT 3.5 (PERCENT) PER YEAR FOR 2015 AND 3.5 (PERCENT) FOR 2016. THIS BRINGS THE ISSUE THAT I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SUMMER, THAT IN FOUR OF THE LAST FIVE APPLICATIONS FOR JUDGESHIP, TWO OR LESS PEOPLE APPLIED FOR THE JOB AND THEY HAD TO BE REISSUED. THE MOST RECENT IS IN HASTINGS FOR A COUNTY JUDGESHIP WHEN JUDGE OFFNER PASSED AWAY. AND THE ONE BEFORE THAT WAS IN GRAND ISLAND IN DISTRICT COURT. AND THEY DIDN'T GET ENOUGH APPLICATIONS TO CERTIFY TWO TO THE GOVERNOR. SO WE NEED TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT WILL ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO APPLY FOR THAT JUDGESHIP. SO I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING ON THE HORIZON THAT WE NEED TO TAKE A LOOK AT. LAST, I'D ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE YES ON THE GREEN...A GREEN VOTE FOR AM885. IT CAME OUT OF OUR COMMITTEE 7-0 AFTER A STERLING RENDITION BY SENATOR CHAMBERS IN FAVOR OF THE BILL. THANK YOU. [LB663 LB297]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SEILER. YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON AM885 AND LB663. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB663]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I HAVE TO STAND IN OPPOSITION TO AM885. I KNOW IT'S NOT GOING TO DO ME ANY GOOD,

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BUT I'M GOING TO DO IT ANYWAY. I KNOW YOU WANT TO GO HOME. SO DO I. WE ARE GOING TO GIVE THE JUDGES, AND I'M SURE THEY'RE ALL FINE FELLOWS, \$172,000 A YEAR, THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES. SINCE 2010, THE JUDGES HAVE ENJOYED A 14.5 PERCENT PAY INCREASE. OUR STAFF, THE PEOPLE THAT WORK IN THE CAPITOL, DURING THAT SAME TIME HAVE ENJOYED AN 8.5 PERCENT INCREASE. WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE NEEDS IT THE WORST? WHAT HAVE THE OTHER STATE EMPLOYEES RECEIVED VERSUS WHAT THESE JUDGES HAVE RECEIVED? COLLEAGUES, I'M NOT GOING TO DRONE ON AND ON. I'M NOT GOING TO THROW IN AMENDMENTS. BUT JUST LOOK AT WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE. THESE PEOPLE ARE APPROACHING A \$250,000 A YEAR IN INCOME FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. ALL OUR STAFF GETS VERY LITTLE INCREASE, NOR DO THE PEOPLE THAT DO THE WORK ON THE ROADS AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. IT'S NOT FAIR. IT'S NOT RIGHT. WE'RE GOING TO DO IT. I'M GOING TO VOTE AGAINST IT. HAVE A GOOD NIGHT. [LB663]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR SEILER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE JUDICIARY AMENDMENTS. [LB663]

SENATOR SEILER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. JUST TO CORRECT THE MISCOMMUNICATION THERE, AFTER THE RAISE, THE SUPREME COURT WILL BE MAKING \$166,000. AND AFTER THE RAISE IN 2016, SUPREME COURT WILL MAKE \$171,000...ALMOST \$172,000. I WILL TELL YOU THAT IN OUR LAW FIRM IN HASTINGS, A THIRD-YEAR ASSOCIATE WILL MAKE MORE THAN THAT. THAT'S THE PROBLEM. THANK YOU. [LB663]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SEILER. YOU HAVE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM885. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE JUDICIARY AMENDMENTS. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB663]

CLERK: 41 AYES, 3 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB663]

SENATOR KRIST: COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB663]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB663]

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SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SPEAKER HADLEY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LB663. [LB663]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, HOW MANY HOURS CAN I TAKE FOR CLOSING? (LAUGHTER) [LB663]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'RE THE SPEAKER, SIR. [LB663]

SPEAKER HADLEY: I ASK FOR YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LB663 AS AMENDED. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB663]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THAT EXCELLENT CLOSING ON LB663. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB663]

CLERK: 42 AYES, 2 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB663. [LB663]

SENATOR KRIST: WE STILL HAVE AN A BILL. LB663 ADVANCES. [LB663]

CLERK: LB663A IS A BILL BY SENATOR HADLEY. (READ TITLE.) [LB663A]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR HADLEY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB663A. [LB663A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, REAL QUICKLY, THE A BILL DOES APPLY TO THE AMENDED BILL, SO IT IS THE CORRECT FISCAL AMOUNT. WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR GREEN VOTE ON THE BILL. [LB663A]

SENATOR KRIST: SEEING NO ONE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR HADLEY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LB663A. SENATOR HADLEY WAIVES. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB663A TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB663A]

CLERK: 38 AYES, 2 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB663A]

SENATOR KRIST: LB663A ADVANCES. MR. CLERK. [LB663A]

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CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR BOLZ WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 1, AT 9:00 A.M.

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED UNTIL 9:00 TOMORROW MORNING.