

March 25, 1980

LB 999

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, you withdrew your amendments temporarily? Senator Kahle.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have the Kahle amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Have you read the amendment, sir?

CLERK: No, I will. Read Kahle amendment offered on page 1498, Legislative Journal.

SENATOR KAHLE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk, and, Mr. Speaker, members, the idea of this amendment came to me from a number of outstate extension boards and it came in last year already and I have been conversing with these people and working with them ever since and we knew it would be a tight budget and I hesitated a great while whether I should even bring this amendment forward this year, but due to the economic conditions that it looks like we are up against, I think it is important that we have some more money in the extension department of the Department of Agriculture so we can have the home agents and the people that we need, at least some of them, in not only in outstate Nebraska but also in the urban areas. It may well come to the place where we will need to preserve our food and learn more about raising our own food and I think that the home extension department is going to play a great part in maybe keeping, and this may be pushing it a little hard, but keeping people from starvation. We have not beefed up this program in the last years because of economics and various things. In my own particular area, we have a half time home extension agent that serves three counties so you can easily determine the problem that they have with the transportation and what little work she actually gets done in any one of the counties because of transportation. Now I know there were requests in the budget to Dr. Lucas who handles this part of the program for some seven hundred and some thousand dollars worth of new programs. We know we can't fund that much. I think only sixty-six thousand was put into this particular program and what I am trying to do is add another hundred thousand so at least a start can be made to provide the services for our people in the rural communities as well as the urban. The 4-H Club program has been and is very popular within the cities now. I think it is great so I hope you won't take this as an urban-rural battle because it is not but we may well need home extension agents to show us how to preserve food and how to live on less income because we certainly or it looks like we are going to have that possibility, and I had, as I said before, debated whether I