

I think considerable evidence of our folly. We here at state level operate at seven percent and we find that difficult but at least we have the budgetmaking ability of all agencies under state government and so we offer them many times less than seven and sometimes considerably more than seven, depending upon what kinds of priorities we establish for each agency that is under state responsibility. We have over two thousand subdivisions of government in this state. They range from budgets anywhere as low as \$10,000 to budgets that exceed 125 or \$130 million. We sit here and we try to justify ourselves that these subdivisions can indeed operate under a seven percent when inflation is rampant, human services are different, indirect property services are different, about everything that you try to put together is different and there is an old quotation that I think is very appropriate. "There is nothing so unequal as equal treatment of unequals." That is exactly what we are doing today in the State of Nebraska. We are treating subdivisions of this government as though they are equal when we all know that is not true and all you have to do is look at 285. There are twenty-two different exemptions in that bill presently and this time around if you watch the legislation introduced I think there was something like sixteen or seventeen pieces of legislation that were introduced from the various subdivisions of government for the purpose of trying to get away from the impact of seven percent lids. I submit to you now is the time to make a courageous choice, that is to say we believe in local control and one of the most responsible things that local officials do is to build a budget. I also submit to you that by seven percent you are saying to them if you don't take advantage of seven percent as a floor you are stupid because your operating budget next year will be diminished by the amount you tried to be responsible for in terms of planning a budget. What you do is you encourage irresponsible budgeting. I know there are amendments running around on this floor where they are talking about anywhere from nine percent to ten or some other magic figure and I again would say to you that when you do this you are saying to subdivisions of government we are requesting that you use eleven or nine or whatever that magic number is because that is the way we will get you out of a momentary dilemma and that is all it is going to be. Recently we worked very diligently on 17E and 17E was a local option limitation. Even though it affected only two school districts it still has profound effect upon any subdivision of government if they want to operate at that level. So it isn't though we are taking away the check on irresponsible local officials. We are not at all. We have in place a piece of legislation which is in full force and effect right now that says to any subdivision