

March 10, 1982

construction activity. The \$200,000 included for the newly created Family Assistance Program will receive my veto. We can and must wait another year. The amount appropriated for the Optometry and Veterinary Contracts can be reduced to the level of my original recommendation at a saving of \$195,000. These are the additional reductions I propose: I ask you cut \$86,000 dollars appropriated to the Department of Motor Vehicles to pay for the costs of eliminating the motor vehicle inspection program. Eliminating a program should save money, not cost more. Any costs should be absorbed through the management of existing resources. I ask you to cut the \$40,100 budgeted for the Coordinating Council for the Handicapped, which was not included in my budget. Cut 31,000 for brochures and the slide show on the Capitol. Cut \$18,600 for a cabinet maker in the Historical Society. Together, and again an itemized list will be presented to you, these reductions amount to 23.4 millions of dollars. Now with that program that I have outlined, we will still not be in clover. We will be facing a potentially serious cash flow situation. For that reason and to help with the overall revenue picture, I am today taking the following steps: I am calling on the Legislature to repeal the portion of the bill passed last year over my veto which directs the state to pay 25% of state aid to schools in October. In my veto message I warned that the bill could have serious implications for the state cash flow, but the Legislature overrode my veto anyhow. Now the day for reconsideration has come and action is required and mercy from you, Senator Koch, is asked. State aid to schools was not cut in the Special Session. State aid to schools is not proposed to be cut in this session. A 40 million dollar annual increase was made just two years ago. State aid to schools should be distributed as it was historically. In addition I am announcing the following actions: 1. An intensive effort by the Department of Revenue with my full support to ensure full compliance with our existing tax laws. I have discussed this matter Attorney General Paul Douglas and should additional attorneys be necessary, they will be made available by the Attorney General's office to the Revenue Department on a temporary basis. Those who owe taxes should pay those taxes. 2. A severe cutback on out of state travel. We have reduced state automobile travel by an average of 25% since 1978 and a much harsher standard will be set for out of state travel. 3. There will be a freeze on all merit raises, and I issue a call to all agencies and employees of state government to demonstrate to the people of Nebraska that we can do better. We can be more efficient and we can control costs and we can and we will be their partners in sharing the necessary economy which are required in this difficult period. The