

that. Page 97, Agency 28, Department of Veterans' Affairs reflects a continuation budget with minor adjustments. And my last one is on Agency 56, the Nebraska Wheat Board, page 117, entirely a cash funded operation, funded by wheat checkoff funds, corresponds with the agency's request. This reflects the statutory increases in the wheat checkoff which currently is one cent per bushel. This was legislation we passed a year ago. Statutes allow the board to increase the checkoff to no more than 1.25 cent per bushel on July 1, and no more than 1.5 cent on July 1, 1990. If my memory is correct, I believe they met recently and decided not to make that increase so it will continue at one cent which is the current. That completes my part of this budget. Is it appropriate to ask for questions, or I guess we'll save them for a later time.

PRESIDENT: I think we'll take those up later. Senator Warner has requested that you members take up your portion of the budget first, then we'll discuss them all later.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I will go through this as quickly as I can for you and so that we can move on to specifics. I will begin with Agency 20, Health, and you'll find that in your blue books on page 88. The committee recommendation does the usual salary adjustments and workmen's compensation adjustments that we've done for all agencies. The big dollar amount in this agency is a contract with Social Services to carry out health care facility inspections that are part of new federal requirements with OBRA. This requires more staff and more operating expenses to carry out new federal nursing home requirements. The state aid increases in the budget relate specifically to renal care, which you probably had a lot of mail on, and we increased the assistance at that level up to 257,000 General in '90 and '91. You will recall last year there was some funding restraints and the program was reduced. This increase restores the level of coverage. The last aid item has to do with a small amount of money for the Nebraska Advocacy Services. That's the group that represents people with developmental disabilities. They haven't had a funding increase since 1983. Finally, I might add that Medicaid dollars pay for the majority of the federal funds contract for Medicare inspections. Moving on to Agency 26, Social Services, again,