

that is considered somewhat unique, if not a disaster. I do not say that has happened with Water Resources, but it is an ironic situation that we spend more money in this kind of an area than we spend on the actual conservation of soil and water. I would like to know why there is any reason anyone cannot vote for this amendment. It is more money than they have spent in the last years. It is more money than they are ever going to spend again. It is more money than they need, and it ought to be settled. If we do not start saving a million here and a million there, ladies and gentlemen, then in four years from now, instead of a \$3 billion budget, we will be talking about a \$6 billion budget, because the more money we appropriate to state agencies, the larger the bureaucracy grows, the more people live off of it, the more people lobby for it, and the more inclined we are then to appropriate additional money, and the taxpayer pays and pays. I have asked myself time after time why more people don't take the budget to heart and look for ways and means to save money. Well, it is pretty obvious. Senator Wesely is virtually ridiculed for his efforts. We have done it again and again and again. The 40 members of this body who are not members of the Appropriations Committee have just as great an obligation to review this budget as do the members of the Budget Committee. You have an obligation to ask questions, and to raise issues. When we do not do it, we abdicate that responsibility and we do not serve our constituents, nor do we serve the people of the State of Nebraska, nor do we serve the state. Ladies and gentlemen, we have watched the decline in the livestock market in the last few months, last few weeks. Cattle are selling 4 to 5 dollars less than they were a short time ago. We have boasted about the strong economy. The only sector of the economy that was strong was livestock, cattle more so than hogs, and that has weakened some. I can tell you from personal experience that decline will wipe out the margin that most cattle feeders have in their cattle feeding operation as of now. We are going to be discussing the constitutional amendment, which may allow for the reimposition of the personal tax on livestock, which will be more, perhaps, than most of these cattle will earn in a year's time. The question comes, why do we need the money? We need the money because on all levels of government, local, city, county, schools, NRDs, and the state, we never learn to say no. We never learn to say don't do it. We never learn to say find a better way. We just automatically open the checkbook and write the check. I have asked you again and again and again to spend the money as if it were your own, but that does not seem to