

September 28, 1992 LB 11

digit, double digit across-the-board reductions. If that is what you prefer to do, that can certainly be done. Now is it wrong, in my opinion, to throw this entity into the mix, when everything else we've passed in the eighties and nineties we've revisited? I don't think so. I don't think so at all. It is just one of those things you have to look at it very closely and do what you have to do, but the fact is that if you don't take this cut, you are another \$3 million short, and on goes that. Maybe, as Senator Byars said, there has to be a better place to do it. Well, you know, Senator Wehrbein made the connection, one of the cuts that the Appropriations Committee recommended we not take was DPI, which would have closed the wing at Beatrice. Maybe that is one people will prefer to close the wing at Beatrice, have more people out on the street, have more problems, but I don't think so. It is one of those things, we are not cutting the operational budget to cities in the State of Nebraska. We are not cutting the operational budget to cities in the State of Nebraska. In the future, we are cutting back on the amount of funds they have available for this program, and I think it is very intuitive to look at our own state LB 309 Program; 309 is where we put money to do the unsexy things in state government on fixing roofs, fixing drainpipes, fixing sewers, and stuff like that, our own little MIREF bill, if you add, that we have in the State of Nebraska to fund our problems. When we passed MIREF, the level of appropriation there was \$5.5 million. Today it is only \$2 million. We have more than cut in half what we do in our own little infrastructure program there, and, you know, is it time for MIREF? Is it too soon to do it? Well, if you wait until next session to do it, then you are going to have to wait another year, on in '94, until you can actually make a cut, unless you want to cut communities back in midterm. I think if you really want to talk about MIREF, if we really want to talk about cutting any money out of this program, now is the time to do it unless you want to wait until '94. And, you know, it is one of those things, like I said, everybody can line up and say there must be a better way, there must be a better way. Well, maybe by an additional cut in ADC, maybe an additional cut at the university, maybe an additional cut in DPI, those are all possibilities that we all should look at, but the thing about it is, you can only get so much of that little sliver of the pie...well, the 20 percent sliver of the pie, the state operation. You can only get so much out of the 40 percent sliver of the pie that is operation of...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.