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still too thin-skinned, I did not take much humor in the opening statement. Senator Beutler thought, well, what has not been cut, what do we increase spending, what Senator Beutler failed to say is these programs have already been reduced twice, down to the size that they are now, and where did the money have to go that we downloaded the size of the other projects? You guessed it, Beadle, but we are not going to talk about that this morning or this afternoon. These projects have been on line for 15 years, I am talking the smaller ones. These projects were moved up on the university process where you have a priority system, here is our number one priority, here is our number twenty priority, and in theory, once you are on the priority list, you begin to move up. Some of the smaller projects got as high as number four on the priority. We got excited because we knew the next couple of years they would be funded. Guess what? Never happened. Something bigger and more important came along.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One of the things and the only way some of these smaller projects over the last 15 years was able to survive even up to now was combining it with the big boys. If we can somehow get it combined, and by the way, what Senator Beutler did not mention and I suspect it was because he did not know is that at the beginning of last year when we were talking about this, the first thing that was removed in a proposal offered by a group of lobbyists in the rotunda was a proposal that would have removed all of those again. To quote a phrase from Senator Lindsay, there comes a time of fairness and equity and there comes a time that we need to fulfill what we are going to do. This proposal, in essence, I am going to repeat that sentence later on too to see if I can even understand it. This proposal, in essence, as put forth by the Appropriations Committee recognizes the difference, puts 7 million back into the General Fund to help cut the deficit...the gap that we have, also allows construction to continue that both the Governor wanted to do, and the Appropriations felt we needed to do. It also equals to about .2 percent of the entire budget of the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That's not an overexaggeration of the process. That's a fair, I think, assess.