

between 500 and 600 people and growing. And I believe that to be a proper responsibility of all of the citizens of Nebraska through appropriations from the General Funds. I know that we apparently have made a certain commitment for production agriculture to bear part of the burden whether or not, whether or not they share in the benefits...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...to any degree. In my mind yet, and this has been a most, most difficult issue for me, I have not as yet resolved my own decision as to how...what my vote will be with converting from a transfer program to an appropriations program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Warner, followed by Senators Vrtiska, Stuhr, Bromm and McKenzie.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am perhaps somewhat in a similar position of Senator Coordsen of somewhat wondering what I'm, for sure, going to do on this because I, too, have some reluctance. If I had my way, any tax incentive or any of these kind of credit programs, and we have several of them, they would all be done with appropriations. And I've tried that in the past a time or two and never got very far. And the reason that's always given is, well, you can't trust the Legislature to make the appropriation later on if it's on the tax incentive. You know, I'm not talking about gasohol now, I'm talking about the other tax incentives. And, as a result, they haven't convinced me that you can't trust the Legislature but I have that same lingering thought if others don't, you know, if you can't make the tax incentives, such as 775, an appropriation as opposed to a transfer where in that case they never get there, you know, anyway it makes you wonder. But I'm...the thing that concerns me more, if we're going to eliminate the transfer, is the cliff that we have. I would be much more comfortable with this if we were transferring the first two years half of the money, but to go from 4 million, next year to 26 million, a 22 million dollar increase becomes fairly substantial and I don't know where we're going to be at toward the end of this session if there are funds that that could be evened out, that is if you could have half the money in the next biennium transferred or appropriated, as the case may be, I would not be nearly as concerned for these two years following this biennium, that it would be level funding. And