

April 5, 1995

LB 425

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, I can. This is, that April 27th is the date that we are obliged to have the budget, proposed budget to you, and we will be there, obviously. We are about half way through the final process in putting together the budget, probably will go through it one more time on some selected issues. It is a little early to tell exactly where we are. We probably are going through right now and doing the things that we would really like to do, but perhaps we'll probably not all be willing to do, in some of the expansions that we're seeing. And we also recognize there are several on the floor here that have yet to be heard, the boot camp bill, for example, the crime bill, some of those things that have significant amounts of money in them, so it is really difficult to tell you exactly where we are. We are trying to be fairly conservative, and I think we are going to be able to do the things that we really need to do this year. We are that far along, but there is not going to be necessarily...if you are inclined to spend more, there will not be a lots of money to spend more. So I don't want...I want to dispel that, but I think we can have a satisfactory budget doing the things that Nebraska needs to do at this point. That's a little bit, maybe, around the...around the bush a little bit, but it's difficult to really pin down where we are at and sensing where the body wants to spend on it. I was going to speak on this issue. I would say it's valid that if some of these things you look at, from a policy standpoint, are something we should do. From my perspective, that it's valid to let those things go until we debate them as part of the appropriations policy and deciding then which of those things that we really ought to be making our thrusts in. And if economic development is one, or if it is going to be the boot camp, you are going to have to be starting to sort that out even now as to what you are going to do with some of those that spend significant money, but the mainline budget, as we've had it, I think will be doing those things we need to do. They will probably fairly closely follow the Governor's budget, if you want a guideline.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And then at this particular point in time, is there any rough figure that the...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...committee has in its mind for total A bills?