

it would be a cost savings of about 179...\$1.79 million over the next two years. My reasons also for doing so are listening to the Governor's comments as he speaks publicly across Nebraska about the budget, the pending budget here in the Legislature, stating that he will veto any monies that are over and above his recommendations. So, seeing that that is a possibility, he's already stated it publicly and I assume...I will have to assume that that's what he will do, these monies would be or the large portion of these monies would be vetoed anyway by the Governor's Office. I'm just hoping that we can show a little bit of concern for the spending here in the Legislature and begin to go ahead and start cutting some of these areas ourselves or freezing some of these areas ourselves if you prefer to think of it that way. If you can't cut, maybe you can freeze some of these budgets. I know I've read through what the additional monies would be for. They are worthy causes but I guess what I have come to the conclusion also is that there are a lot of worthy causes out there that we will not have the money to fund. So we have to start deciding which areas we need to prioritize and which areas can hold for a while and this is an area...these areas that I would consider at least for the next two years that we could kind of hold the budget to the '94-95 level and I would that the majority of people in this body would also agree with that and vote for this amendment. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Wehrbein, on the Witek amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members, I'm going to rise to oppose this and I understand Senator Witek's concern but I just want to call your attention to it is not as easy as it first appears to take these cuts. If you will look in your big...your little blue book, as I called it, one is 102, one is 111, page 111, and the other one is 128. If you want to go down and see what exactly this amounts to, you may see that. First of all, Agency 47, NETV, which is page 102, it amounts to a 4 percent increase in salaries, 3.5 percent increase in salaries for the two years. If you take that cut, in this case, take away that money, that will not cut...that will cut deeply into the agency's base because they actually must make those payments to fulfill the negotiated union contract. So taking the money here simply means that they will cut something else out of NETV in order to pay these salaries because they must be...those increases must be paid based on the negotiated salary. If you