

using it. I guess you can use your own judgment as to whether the arts and humanities are important in the lives of Nebraskans. That decision perhaps is up to yours. The Appropriations Committee and myself happen to support these, helping us better to understand ourselves and our relationship to the world. Humanities Council and the Art Council have done much in this area. And particularly I wanted to emphasize again the Humanities Council because they have had tremendous draw on their resources for the multicultural education that we did pass in another bill. Once again, that was a body decision. We felt obligated to fulfill that need via this and we did have much discussion in the committee on that, I will admit. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I understand that these will not be easy cuts to make and I understand that some people might support some of them and not support others of them. And I understand it will be very difficult. Senator Bernard-Stevens said had I thought of bringing each one separately. I have serious doubts, after watching this group of people all year long, whether I can get 25 votes on any of those areas and I have serious doubts that I could get 25 votes together. So I guess mostly what I'm trying to do is just offer up some ideas of how we can cut some of this increase in our budget. We...I am an individual who supports the arts. That was my favorite area in school. I paint. I support that when I can, personally, as an individual within my community. I was a parent who supported the arts programs in our schools, taking my time to do the Artists in Residence Programs, raising funds for those areas. I work very hard within my school and my community to support those areas. I support the multicultural effort within the communities. I do not, however, support a state mandate because it was my contention at that time and continues to be that it would be very costly to do it. Any time you ask government to do anything it's going to cost you a lot more money than you ever imagined and if we agree, as a community, that we want those things in our community and that we, as individuals, will work hard for them and we don't turn to government then we save ourselves a lot of money and sometimes we even get a better product because we're involved personally in that. So those are areas that I supported, I just don't support government supporting that. And, by the way, if you will remember, you were told when you vote for all that that it would not cost any extra money and it has. I just wanted to