

devastate the whole program? When you talked about you have a mandated or already a price or salary schedule that's been adopted, is there anywhere that any of those funds can be transferred around to accommodate that and yet not...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...and yet reduce some of those budgets down to some degree?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, based on our perusal of the budget the last 70 days, no. I mean, we say we haven't cut, it's been stated we haven't cut, I...we should have kept track of how many millions of dollars we did cut in requests. We have cut and several agencies have been cut. You haven't heard about them. They've taken their lumps and not raised the issue, but we've...we took...I don't want to exaggerate but several...more than \$100,000 out of several agencies in their requests or denied expansions.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So it isn't that we haven't looked at this very carefully. By and large, this represents a budget that we think is where our priorities would be in the appropriations and try to reflect on what we think the State of Nebraska wants.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I understand that you call those...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Robak. Senator Chambers, Senator Robak yields her time to you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature. I was looking at Senator "Witekam's" amendment, and the reason I say Senator "Witekam" is because you usually sign your name at the bottom of your amendment and I see at the bottom of this amendment w-i-t-e-k-a-m. That spells Witekam. So what I'm going to do, in addition to pointing that out, is to speak against her amendment. I was listening to Senator Wehrbein's presentation and it was very satisfying to me to hear the specific rationale he was able to give for opposing each aspect of these amendments. So his having done that so well takes away the necessity for me to talk about that technical aspect of it. I will deal with some of the more philosophical types of considerations. Reading history is very, very beneficial and