

which we are dealing with on the floor. There was \$6.6 million in state wards public assistance which will not be taken up because it was killed in committee, and another almost \$5.5 million for Medicaid caretaker relative. So that makes up a big portion. Those are bills that other committees or this floor has decided that we will not deal with. In terms of revisions that the Governor has accepted, there are salary increases to parole and corrections of \$2.2 million, vacancy savings to corrections and DAS, and DSS, of 1.5 million.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, I'm going to be brief, Senator Withem, thank you. And, thank you, Senator Brown, for detailing some of those issues. I simply want to remind the body that part of...I've repeatedly said that this is a responsible budget and one of the reasons is because I do think it is going to allow local government entities, in many cases, if not most and if not all, to hold the line on property taxes because we are doing the responsible job in trying to allocate state aid. We did not cut state aid. We did not cut aid to community colleges. We did not cut aid to cities and to counties and to schools. Admittedly, we're not at the 45 percent level of funding that originally was one and, admittedly, it is...the percent of the total is not as great as it is but we did not reduce that. So I would think that you need to understand that if we had made significant cuts and that would have to include the aid, which once again is 60 percent of our budget, one billion eighty million dollars goes out to aid in different forms, including Medicaid. If we were to abdicate our responsibilities in that area, someone in many, many areas would have to pick that up, not all, but a lot of it, and it would go on property tax. And so I ask you, even on the Medicaid issue,; it's rising rapidly and it's in the care for the elderly, and I ask you when I get pushed hard I say how many of you in here are prepared to spend a million dollars on your health care some day upon your retirement? And that is a possibility if you spend many years in a nursing home. None of us...not many have that kind of money put away. The state is picking this up in many cases and you're going to see our Medicaid bill rise increasingly. That is part of the State of Nebraska's budget, and, on top of that, the feds are picking up a declining percent of that at this point, since in the last 4 or 5 years it's dropped 5 percent from about 63 now to 58 percent is fed share. Who picks that up? It's the State of