

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR COORDESEN: ...the cost of government, we talk about the growth here in Lincoln, Nebraska, and everything, this month's feature county was Thomas County. Thomas County, 53 percent of the people that are employed in Thomas County work for government; 29 people run stores; 97 people farm; a hundred people work at salaries; and 110 work for government. Those sorts of things can't be sustained very much longer. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Madam President and members, I think Senator Coordsen was trying to be sympathetic to the committee as it now operates, and I don't know if Senator Wehrbein has mentioned or anyone else that the Appropriations Committee is, indeed, initiating a study of the appropriations process, because all of us on the committee sometimes, and more than just sometimes, feel that the way we do it is the tail wagging the dog. Come on, David, don't you feel...yes, David Bernard-Stevens, who has been there, and he knows, but what I want to point out to you just two or three things so you understand that each one of us on Appropriations shares your frustrations. We do. There are a lot of things in place that you cannot change. One of the cuts that the Department of Public Institutions offered had to do with Beatrice State Developmental Center. I had more letters on Beatrice State Developmental Center cut than anything else. I had a stack from all over the state, and some outside of the state; oh, my sister, my cousin, my brother, my son is there, don't cut Beatrice. Those would be significant cuts, very difficult to take. The other one we took, I can't remember the amount of money, on the PEER program in the Health Department. It is a significant amount of money. I have had phone calls, letters, don't do that. The Health Department offered it as a cut, but all these people who were benefiting with contracts for some of these programs and so on said don't cut it. Well, they pay taxes too, so I suppose they will turn right around and complain about taxes. But the other thing, you all received the same thing that I did from Revenue in February. The state tax dollar, I am going to say it once more, we don't talk about aid; 38 percent of the pie, the budget pie where the state tax dollar goes, General Funds, 38 percent goes back for local tax relief,