

January 30, 1996 LR 41

district during the campaign. And I have to say that as much as I love other parts of Nebraska, I would not trade my district for any other district in the state. My constituents are very thoughtful and reasoned people. But I heard a lot from them about wanting to have smaller government, wanting to have greater efficiency and accountability, and that's what motivated me in bringing forward this resolution. In 1940 the state of Nebraska had 38 state agencies for 1.5 million people. In 1990 we have 108 state agencies for 1.6 million people. But what I heard from my district was not that I come down here and take a meat axe to every agency in the state of Nebraska. And, frankly, sitting on the Appropriations Committee, you know, I could have probably been involved in doing some things to significantly cut back on budgets, more than we even did last year. And I think we were very effective in looking very carefully at all state budgets. But I think that what...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...they wanted me to do was to look very carefully at those things that were archaic, as Senator Matzke said, whose reason for being, in the constitution, economic regulation, i.e. rate setting, who may provide the service, where it may be provided and for how much is the only justification in uncompetitive industries and that is no longer the case. But I want to make sure that we are responding to what I'm hearing from people, be selective, be careful, don't dismantle government totally, but provide us with efficiencies, restructuring and cost-savings.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. Just a couple of questions for Senator Brown, if I might, please.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Yes, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Continuing some of our discussion the other day, and I guess a couple things I'd like to get clear in my mind, if in fact this constitutional amendment is proposed and is voted on and should carry, how would you then propose that the various activities of the Public Service Commission then be