

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 27, 1999 LB 298

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Thank you. Well, I too am concerned, and I don't want to sound too harsh, but as we review budgets in the Appropriations Committee, we do find that there are several requests for increases in commissions beyond the 3 percent or 4 percent. There are significant increased requests. And so often the attitude is that we're outside of the purvey (sic) of the direct legislation...Legislature and there's not as much control, frankly, as I would like to see. And so I do want to speak to that. I don't want to chastise anyone at this point, at least on the commissions, but many times they are fairly autonomous, some by design, but I definitely think many of these need to be looked at because they do impact our budget. They do impact the image of the state, in many cases, and, still, they are not directly responsible. They hire and fire their own executive directors and so forth and so on, and so I do...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...think that this deserves to be looked at in that light, not so much a vendetta but as to whether they are accomplishing a purpose and that there needs to be a reminder that ultimately the citizens of Nebraska look to this body for the control of spending and those kinds of things which, in this case, I am particularly sensitive to. And so I just wanted a little better understanding of what you had in mind and I thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Chair recognizes Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I too support Senator Schimek's bill and, as far as the...what Senator Wehrbein just mentioned, as far as the vendettas, I don't think that's the purpose of this at all, I really don't. And...but I do believe that over the years all these commissions and boards have been created, they've been created but...and some of them...and they just remain in existence and some of them I think have probably outused the purpose of their...their original intent. So, therefore, I think through this, through this bill, many of these commissions that are no longer functioning or no longer worthwhile or no longer needed can