

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

February 11, 1999 LB 148

for the most tangible benefits that there are. In this bill, we are talking about tangible benefits for families. We are talking about tangible benefits for the state. And use that same criteria on every single spending bill and prioritize, and by prioritizing that means if you choose this you have to give up something else. You have to not vote for something else. You have to be able to say, I have already made my priority and this is it. And that's what choice is about and we need to start making it right now and we start...need to start making it by...by making the decision on what is the most tangible benefits that we can put our hands on. And I would speak for this bill, that we do have some very tangible benefits, not just for the state of Nebraska but for the citizen...more importantly, for the citizens of Nebraska, but it's going to require us to give something else up.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Mr. President, am I the last light? I think I'll wait for my closing. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Tyson.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: (Laugh) Thank you, Mr. President. I'll be very brief. I just wanted to maybe call to the attention of the body, and especially newer members, we probably are a little earlier than usual in the process of needing to sort some of the appropriations, particularly, bills out. Our...my observation is our system is working very well and we have some of these more serious bills, if I may use the term, up fairly early in the process, when it is very difficult to sort out what you may want to prioritize and what you may not. And we will have a status for you in about ten days of a preliminary budget so that you can look for yourself. We are still trying to compare apples to apples with...not only with the Governor's budget but what we are proposing as Appropriations Committee. But some of these decisions are coming a little earlier than normal in the process, in my observation, and it does give you an indication of some of the decisions that ultimately will have to be made on Final Reading, probably in May. On the other hand, I'm hoping