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questions? Would you respond?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Wehrbein, you said that the, if I'm understanding this right, now all departments are self-insured in workmen's compensation.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: The state of Nebraska is self-insured in workmen's comp, yes.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Have they always been this way?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I do not know the history, but I think so.

SENATOR JANSSEN: All right. Now when...when...when money is appropriated for those different departments, is a portion of their appropriation sent to or for workmen...their workmen's compensation premiums?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR JANSSEN: All right. So...and now we have a surplus, is that right, of...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No, actually we have a shortage of authority to pay out the claims. We have claims that are on the rise and so we have additional claims to pay out and do not have the spending authority to do that.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: There is cash, using federal Cash Funds in the Revolving Fund, adequate to pay out, we think. There may be necessary to have additional General Fund requests through agencies if, into the future, if claims continue like they are, but they are now attempting to...much stronger efforts to get a handle on the claims.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Okay, what...what...it kind of...that kind of surprised me because I know workmen's comp insurance has went down in the private sector for the last five years. It's