

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 2, 1999

LB 149
LR 3

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Talk about last year's A bill county jail cost reimbursement, \$6.8 million. That was last year's bill. Regional center's mental health replace federal cash, this is an area where we get stuck sometimes. We're very cautious about it. Federal funds go away, guess what. State of Nebraska gets asked to replace those funds. And it goes on: aid to community colleges, aid to K-12 schools which, by the way, does not include \$22 million. This is separate in another bill, (LB) 149, if it's needed. McCook Work Camp, opening up the McCook Work Camp. Development disabilities staying on the pay equity step, that plan that we started several years ago, we're still not at a hundred percent, by the way. Mental health substance abuse aid increases, drastically needed in this day and age of increasing problems with drugs. We're trying hard to pour more money into...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. For discussion on the committee amendment, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Lieutenant Governor Maurstad, members of the Legislature, I support the resolution. I think that the figure in the committee amendment should be a little higher, but that's a discussion for later. I basically wanted to relate to you a little bit my perspective on this to some extent, because it is the perspective of somebody's who's brand new on the Appropriations Committee, and yet also the perspective of someone who's been outside the Appropriations Committee for a number of years and shared a number of frustrations. One of the, I guess, the main frustration that maybe I feel is just the fact that the whole process, when you try to put together continuing appropriations with A bills, is somewhat haphazard and out of our control in the sense that we tend to come to the end of sessions without a clear idea of overall where we want to be, without any integrated thought with regard to A bills and