

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

March 2, 1999

LR 3

\$22 million now with our lawsuit against Wyoming and the foreseeable future says that will probably increase some more. You can put your own numbers in to what the potential water lawsuit will cost with Kansas. Remember, we are on...going to be on the defense on that one. No one really knows where it's headed. Probably none of us in this body will be here at the time that that is ended, in the next century sometime. That makes it sound longer. But, anyway, that is an ongoing cost for us, and we are continually having to put more money into that. But that's part of our request. The rest goes down and I'll.... The opening of the Tecumseh prison is not immediate, but we do start staffing that so they can get training. I want you to notice that, student testing is another A bill, 1228 last year kicks in, disability transition aid and so forth, they're smaller numbers as we get down, under a million dollars. I just wanted to call your attent.... Oh, there is one in there, opening of the...at the university, of the opening in Information Technology Center in Omaha is in our budget this year. It's in the university budget. It's one of the few things we funded within the university budget, beyond the salaries. That probably is enough of that in detail. If you want to see more details or ask questions, feel free to. And back to Senator Schimek's amendment of 3.5 percent, that's the body's decision. If you want to accommodate many of the things that are in the budget this year, it's probably a reasonable number. I...that's one of the reasons I think we, in the Appropriations Committee, wanted this discussion here earlier this year than...usually it comes in May. We have not always emphasized, I think, the percentage increase. On the other hand, from outside the body, that's the way we are measured. And I want to call also your attention to the handout that Senator Beutler had, about the 12 percent increase last year, remember? That was a one-time shot for increased state aid to schools. That was...that...I think that number was...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...was maligned, in a lot of cases, because it showed that we increased spending. But, if you look at the other numbers, they're obviously quite a bit less. But we did have that blip. And, if you're going to do property tax relief in the form of state aid, it's going to show up as a number like