

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

March 2, 1999

LR 3

when we go to try to limit those then to perhaps a magical number or not, I'm not sure what that number should be. I didn't hear a specific issue today on that. That's the reason for my bracket. I think that this ought to be a continuing dialogue, and perhaps it is not the point to be doing it right now as to make that decision. We ought to consider these things. I don't want anyone to really to be making a hasty decision, but to consider that this is an in-depth, a fairly in-depth, it's not great in-depth, but a fairly in-depth discussion of the budget. I noticed there wasn't any questions in detail, particularly, and that's fine. But I think those of you with A bills out there need to realize that, even under an optimistic scenario, there is not room for all A bills that have come forward. I don't have a current count on numbers, but I know it's well up into the millions of good A bills that have been moved forward so far, and there are several coming. So it's kind of a warning that all of these are not going to fit, even under the opt...most optimistic scenario we can paint. On the other hand, if you want to hold the proposed resolution level at 3 percent, it's...it's...we would still even have to go back and take some serious cuts. Frankly, the University of Nebraska is one of the few that we can take cuts, higher education, because it's one of the areas that we do not have entitlement. I've repeated, and at the risk of being repetitive, about 20 percent of our budget is operations, about 20 percent of our budget is higher education, and about 60 percent is aid, aid to local subdivisions, aid to schools, aid to individuals, Medicaid, long-term nursing home care, that's where the bulk of our money goes, and many of those cases it's entitlements. So, with that, I would offer...Senator Brown, if you have any comments that you'd like to make on the bracket, then I would like my time back, if I may.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I'm interested in some of the comments that have been made about us, about how it's responsible for us to cede our role as the body that appropriates and sets appropriations priorities to the Governor. I remember the first year that I was here. We brought...the Appropriations Committee brought a budget forward, and there were a group of senators that suggested a bracket motion on the