

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

March 13, 2000 LB 1217

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, I will respond. Part of it was we felt it was an issue of fairness because the state itself had a, as I recall, a 25 percent increase in our health care costs, a year ago. State colleges had a 37 percent increase; we funded those. And the university, because it's self-insured, we felt then had an obligation to at least adequately fund it. What we ended up doing is nearly all of the first year at \$3 million, the second year we did...we kept it flat in our...way we state it, and they are to do a study, and actually it's turned out, we've got...a study already came out just last week...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...on...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein and Senator Brashear. Further debate on the committee amendments? Senator Schmitt.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I guess, I just have a question for Senator Wehrbein, or I don't know really if it's a question or a statement. But...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR SCHMITT: ...the question I have, I guess, is whether anything was thought about with the appropriation deficit as far as what the different departments within the state are going to be running into because of the cost of fuel that is coming up? Some of these are going to be major, I think, with the Department of Roads, the Patrol, the university, the Game and Parks, and all of the others, because of the difference in fuel price. And nobody knew what this fuel was going to do, and I understand that, Senator Wehrbein. But just for the record, I guess, I was wondering if any of this had been addressed or thought about? I'm not going to be here next year, but somebody may have to deal with it. So would you like to comment on that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, we've had no...thank you, Senator Schmitt. We had no conversation whatsoever about the increased cost of fuel. Most of this has occurred, as you know, probably