

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

March 13, 2000

LB 1217

SENATOR HILGERT: Mr. President, I'd yield my time to Senator Brashear.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Wehrbein, I suspect, please...I'll...be seated, you don't have to stand up. I would like at some point to continue the colloquy. But I'm going to digress for a moment. I've decided that I suffer from a certain kind of numbers numbness, and I've decided a lot of other people do, too. If you say a billion dollars here, or in discussing public policy if you say "billion", they think you just mispronounced it, you really meant a million. And so I've decided that a billion dollars needs an illustration. And I've taken to suggesting that a billion dollars is ten piles of money, \$100 million in every pile. And in this case, if we're going to talk about the University of Nebraska annual revenues, we've got almost 11 of those \$100 million piles of money each year. Now, Senator Wehrbein, if you would please yield, I'd ask you, because we are here trying to find money for all of these worthwhile things, including our university, to whom should we look if we have any criticism of this problem having come to us as a deficit appropriation? Who should have anticipated health care costs, which I say again is not a particularly modern human resources fringe benefit?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I would say the buck stops at the presidency of the University of Nebraska.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, but there's a higher authority than the president, isn't there?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Board of Regents?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yeah. Who's our representative? We, the people, don't appoint or elect the president of the university, do we. But we the people do, and I sometimes think maybe it's slipped notice, elect the Board of Regents to serve us in running our university for us, do we not?