

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

March 21, 2000 LB 1217

it in a crisis situation all through public health. We're not stepping up and paying these people what they deserve to be paid and we're...we're looking at this a little tiny piece at a time. We respond to some; we don't respond to others. We have a circumstance where we have a budget that we...we need to try to maintain control of but sooner or later I hope that all of us examine our own conscience and say, how long can we hide behind this issue? How long can we just shove it under the proverbial rock and not face it? The longer we don't face it the more critical the problem is going to become. None of us want to step up and spend the money, none of us do, not one soul in here does, but if we keep putting it off year, after year, after year, it just keeps snowballing. I would hope that Senator Wehrbein would take the lead, the Appropriations Committee possibly in joint work with the Revenue Committee, to look at an overall study of where we're at with employees in the state of Nebraska going across the gamut and what is it that we need to do to correct it, what are our resources, what do we need to access as far as funding, and then at least start to deal with it rather than just sweeping it under the rug. So, Senator Schimek, I would commend you. I think we absolutely have to address the problem and I think it's just so much deeper than what we're talking about on this one issue.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Byars. Any further discussion on the Schimek amendment? Seeing none, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam President, I would just thank the body for their indulgence and their comments and, with that, I would withdraw the amendment for now, with the idea of maybe coming back on Final Reading.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. No objection, it is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Bromm would move to amend. (AM2983, Legislative Journal page 1187.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bromm. Senator Bromm. Senator Bromm, you're on.