

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

April 3, 2000

LB 1217

imperative. It's important. We don't have enough beds now. If we don't fund this adequately we're going to lose beds that we vitally need. I'm not sure if you all know it or not...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...but we asked for a 7 percent increase to make up for the six years that we received nothing. This amount of money represents 3 percent, 3 percent, and it's, I think, 4...yeah, 3 percent, and it's at least a minimum amount we can afford to provide. We can't afford not to do this. I get the impression, as I talk with a lot of you on the floor here, there was concerns about the package. You all know that. There were some who didn't like the mall or didn't like something else, and I don't necessarily disagree with you. But, on the other hand, I want to tell you I admire Senator Wehrbein. He took the heat for the package. He did the best he could. Obviously, there's an awful lot of you out there didn't like the package. But for those of you that didn't like the package, like the kids that are served by the programs we're talking about with these two proposed overrides, the \$2 million...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...for those kind of programs. Thank you very much. Hope you help us.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Lynch, yours is the next light on.

SENATOR LYNCH: I've never talked this long since I've been here, Senator. (Laughter) Thank you very much. There's very little to add and I won't add any more and there's no sense in keeping talking until you think of something to say. I think we've all said it already. I'm glad to try to answer any questions that any of you might have, but this is so...I can't tell you. Of everything I've ever done or been involved with on the floor of the Legislature, I can't think of anything that's really much more important than this, if as important of this...as this at all. There seems to be support from all reaches across the state for this kind of a thing and it speaks well for our system because it does point out that, regardless of our politics and wherever we live in Nebraska, this state is