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FLOOR DEBATE

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money...hunting permits sold, fishing permits sold, the acres of wildlife land managed, the hunter safety participants by number, bow hunter education, and enforcement arrests in violation, which...read it poaching. I just wanted to call your attention to where all this cash goes. In the big picture, on this particular agency, we're about 80 percent cash funded, 20 percent general. Which in general, across this country, is very high cash funded. That's, once again, the appropriateness of why these funds are where they're at, the cash funds that we're talking about being raised in the forms of permits. We don't fund our Game and Parks Commission very heavily with General Funds, as some other states do, particularly in the parks area. And I know the next issue coming up will be the park permit. And that's going to be another point of contention. I understand all that. The big question is, as we go through this budget process...and I'm going to be making this point over and over again, not only in here, but in the public arena...is the very seriousness of our budget situation pertaining to General Funds. The real point is, if we don't do some things in some areas with cash funds, we are not going to be able to do it with General Funds either. And so we're going to see an area of decline. And this will carry over into the areas that perhaps Senator Chambers was talking about. If we cash fund some of these things here with people that are willing to do that...and that can carry over into the athletics at the University of Nebraska, too...then if we fund those with cash funds here with willing participants, then perhaps we'll have General Funds for some areas that Senator Chambers is interested in, and I am too, I don't want...that we're all interested in. So the real point in this whole thing, as we do our budget, we're going to have to look at a balance. And that's going to be very difficult to arrive at. And people ask us how we're going to get there. And I don't know that answer. But I hope by the eightieth day, for example, that we are going to know that. And we're going to go through the process, not only in our committee and in this body, but in the public. And we're going to have to decide where we're going to raise cash funds, i.e., permits and so forth; revenue, if we do that; and where...and via the General Funds; or where we're going to make cuts. And I cannot at this point overemphasize the seriousness of the budget in Nebraska at this point. Third year of