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FLOOR DEBATE

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before us doesn't adequately address what I think is our fundamental fiscal problem, which is state aid, then I won't be voting for LB 407 when it comes time to advance it. So I just want to make that clear for the record. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Schrock, on the committee amendments to LB 407.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, first of all, I want to tell you I'm very thankful for the rain. It's going to change the attitude out in rural Nebraska. In fact, I'm already hearing, I can't get my corn planted. That would have been refresh... (laughter) Yeah, you just can't please us, no matter what you do. I want to talk to you a little bit about two Nebraskas. The census just came out, a projection on the census, what happened the last two years. All seven of my counties lost population. I'm really thankful State Farm decided to stay in Lincoln, but pardon me if I'm a little green with envy. A company just left Holdrege, and they're closing their plant this month. Employed 93 people. That's a big deal in Holdrege. On the other end of my district is Clay Center, and I'm going to talk to you a little bit about it. And I don't want to be too critical of the university, because I know what they've gone through is painful. And I don't want to burn any bridges, because I have some hopes that something could happen out there yet. But just let me run a few things by you. And be patient with me. We went in a special session last year in August. And right before we did that, the university announced a salary increase. And Senator Brashear touched a spot with me--salary increases when times are tough. There is, or was, 28 people employed out there at Clay Center by the university. Nineteen of those positions are either going to be moved to Lincoln or eliminated. Now, I know if I held a coffee, invited all my neighbors over, and told them what the salaries were...and I'm going to run through them for you: faculty A, tenured, \$89,000; faculty B, tenured, \$85,000; faculty D, tenured, \$107,000; faculty E, tenured, \$88,000. And most of those come with a benefits package of anywhere from 16 to 20 thousand. Now, that's big money. That's big salaries in rural Nebraska. Now, these are scientists that have their