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April 29, 2003 LB 407

forward I hope that you will support us in looking into this.
Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Johnson. There are no further lights. Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I want to...I hope everyone recognizes the difficulty, it's just as difficult for the committee to leave the gap as it is for you to face the gap. We struggled with this for a long time and one of the difficulties with our committee is that we have to face reality on the expenditure side, and that's what this budget is about. And I understand the frustrations with it, because certainly we've been through that. There's probably a term for that, that all the different emotions a person goes through when you start to know that you're running into a brick wall. But that is the reality of what this budget is about and that's why I had to demonstrate that in the early parts, and I thank Senator Beutler for calling our attention and my attention again to page 21, because that is also an extra good, excellent thumbnail sketch of the budget, where those increases are and where the decreases are. And if you scan down that through the agency operations, state aid to individuals and state aid to local government, you can see what we've done in this particular proposed budget. And if you would take Corrections out of the agency operations, for sure we're awful close to a flat budget for two years on most of our...on most of our agencies, if not a decrease in many. In fact, 41 agencies show a six-tenths percent. And that's on top of the many cuts that we've made over the last three or four sessions. It isn't that this is the first cutting session that we've ever done. And reality is, and I use this a lot of times in the public speeches, is the reality is we are rebuilding infrastructure in eastern Nebraska as we abandon good infrastructure in the west, and I think that's one of the realities about this state that's very difficult to accept. But our school aid formulas and all of those things are faced with rapidly growing population, school population, particularly in the eastern part of Nebraska, right here where we're at, greater Omaha, greater Lincoln. And we know that school districts in the west are losing population and still are