

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

April 30, 2003 LB 407

don't do good work. And again I would argue that, especially in light of Senator Aguilar's pointing out the huge increases in numbers over this last decade, tens of thousands of new Hispanics in Nebraska, many of them not familiar with our ways particularly, working into the schools, working into the workplace, becoming acculturated, that's not without problems and frustrations and misunderstandings. And the ability of places like Lexington and South Sioux City and other areas to accept and welcome and assimilate these masses of new people, in a way that's agreeable to everybody, has to do I think with the spreading of understanding the diminution of misunderstanding, and these commissions I think are vital in that role.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So I hope you will be inclined to be favorable to the restoration of the funds. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, what I'm going to say I hope does not leave an indication or reflection of my feelings for or against this bill, because I understand from the speakers ahead of me what their feelings are. I don't know that much about these commissions, but I understand the job they do. The only thing that I guess I want to remind the body, that as we move ahead, is this the beginning of the slippery slope that we always talk about? Are we going to start putting back more and more dollars to further unbalance the budget? That's not a reflection against this piece, this amendment because, as I indicated, I'm not standing here saying that I'm opposing it. I'm just saying we have to start looking carefully at the things that we put back into the budget that were worked out and gone through by the Appropriations Committee to come up with some kind of a reasonable budget that we could pass this year within the confines of the kind of money that we have. So in not deterring from the thought of what this amendment will do, but only reminding the body that we're going to have to start to be careful when we start to add things back in that were not there to begin with, because we don't even have