

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

April 30, 2003      LB 407

a balanced budget now and we can further unbalance it by continuing to add things in. And I guess I just wanted to remind the body for future discussions this is something we have to keep in mind or we're going to find ourself deeper and deeper in this troubled budget that we have, this troubled financial situation that we find ourselves in. And so it's just a thought that I think we have to keep in mind and be wary of where we go to find more money or where we do find more money to bring our budget into balance. And again remind you that I'm not standing here opposing this particular amendment, only just as a cautionary move that we have to be sure that we understand, every time we put dollars back in, we further the problem that we're in right now. And with that, Mr. President, thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Chair now recognizes Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members of the body, just want to give you a little history of some of the discussions in the Appropriations Committee and some thoughts that I have. And I passed out a draft resolution to you that I have it ready to go, but I would welcome any input before I would file that. Last summer, I started thinking about, as I always do in the interim, you know, it's when I start thinking about the areas that I believe Nebraska should be looking into and things that might need to be changed and altered. I meet with people and different groups. And one of the issues that's troubled me for a long time is how we as a state approach the issues of the minority populations and the issues of our new immigrants when we have such a wide variety of agencies dealing with those issues, and how we get to policy formation and how we as a Legislature get to those types of issues that need to be brought to us and looked at from what I'd say may be 50,000 feet above instead of right here on the ground level. Those issues affect economic development, our Department of Economic Development in work force issues; the Department of Labor in work-related issues and complaints that we've had; the Department of Education as we work with populations that need English as a second language, as well as other services in the schools; the Department of Health and Human Services, which has a minority health division; as well as others that work with