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FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2003      LB 407

hesitant to start new bureaucracies, but I think that this is something that we can certainly be discussing over the interim. With that, Mr. President, I would return my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think that what we're talking about today is really a good example of why it takes so long for the Appropriations Committee to come up with a package. Ninety-plus percent of the things that we hear about are very significant to a number of people, and here we have...I saw it the first day we started talking about the budget proposal. The issue was whether or not we should be giving more money for the veterans' hospital or veterans' home in Omaha, very worthwhile purpose. Then we talk about the commissions and there wasn't any disregard for these commissions or for the work that they do. It's simply how can we start to rein in some of the expenses of the state? And you see what happens. Whenever there's something that has worthwhile purpose, you try to diminish that in any respect and there are people who don't want that to happen, so this is why we have a problem. I saw it when I was on the school board in North Platte. Once you start a program, even a pilot-type program, it builds a constituency, and you better just be prepared if you start a pilot program that it's going to be with you almost forever. And so I think that this is one of our problems, is to evaluate each one of these programs. I think that the proposal that Senator Thompson is suggesting has merit. There are people that are new people within our country that do not have the access to someone to talk to, to find out what it is that their rights are, where they are supposed to go, how they're supposed to do things. Now these two commissions we're talking about have been around for quite awhile, but there's no intent to try to abolish them simply because they weren't doing a good job. The idea was how can we reduce the cost of government, and this is a perfect example of how difficult that is to do and I just want to share that with you. That's why it takes so long for us to get our work done. So thank you very much.