

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

make appropriations for the expense of government. Well, that's obviously what we're in the middle of doing right now. But then if you also look in Article IV, Section 7, it requires the Governor to present a budget. It requires the Governor to come before us, which he did, and present a budget to us. That's a constitutional requirement that the Governor did for us. And then I thought it was kind of interesting in reading a little bit further into that Section 7, no appropriation shall be made in excess of the recommendations contained in the budget...in such budget...that's speaking of the Governor's budget...including any amendment the Governor may make thereto, unless by three-fifths vote of the Legislature, and such excess so approved shall be subject to veto by the Governor. And so that is one of the reasons why I think that we need to not only look at the very good and hard work that our Appropriations Committee has done up to this point, but we also need to look and refer back to some of the recommendations that the Governor has brought before us, too. In further reading through the constitution, in Article VII, Section 1, the necessary revenue of the state shall be raised by taxation in such manner as the Legislature may direct. Well, that's what we're in the middle of right here. But I, like Senator Bourne, thought that we should come up with a figure, an appropriations figure, that we can shoot at, and then, after that, come up with that revenue figure to fill that gap. And then as we all know, in Article XIII, Section 1, we can't have deficit spending in the state of Nebraska. As a matter of fact, no deficit in the state shall exceed \$100,000. That's a constitutional mandate. So we have to come up with a balanced budget. That's not only our responsibility here in the Legislature, but it's also the responsibility of others in this Capitol Building, including the executive branch of government. We have to work together to come up with a balanced budget. And so I support the concept of a couple of different things. I support the concept of bringing together the best ideas for coming up with a balanced budget that comes out with the best plan for the state of Nebraska. And so one of the reasons why I guess I was intrigued by Senator Erdman's philosophy is that it would appear that he took the best ideas from the Appropriations Committee and Senator Wehrbein, he took some of the best ideas from the Revenue Committee and Senator Landis, he took some of the best ideas