

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Thank you, Senator Erdman and all you who have contributed to this. And I basically am going to just ditto some of the things that Senator Jensen just said. The bottom number is an appetizing number. I think it's a number we could probably work for. It's...I have some concerns, obviously. When you start cutting another 4 percent out of...4.7 percent out of universities and state colleges, added to what we've already taken from them, I think we should probably be taking a look at closing an institution. And I'm not putting in an amendment to do that. But I come back to my old story about having three cars with three tires is...three wheels, is not as good as having two with four wheels. When you start crippling these institutions, I think we maybe need to take a look at closing one. Maybe a state college, and possibly one of the university branches, instead of crippling all of them. The only one that's on here that I'm concerned about...and Senator Raikes will talk more about that...is the state ward ed growth. That is money that I don't think we can take out, by law, or maybe even constitution, because that is money that pays for those kids that are placed out of the system. And they have to...I mean, like, you send a kid to Boys Town, Boys Town will soon be turning down our kids. You have to pay for them. So I don't think we can touch that. But there are some other areas here and there that can be touched. I think it's good work. And I'm going to be listening very closely. And I'm very supportive. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in uncertainty about this amendment. I've got to acknowledge, as others have, this is incredibly impressive. It's taken me three years to get to the point where I think I can speak intelligently about the school aid portion of our budget. Senator Erdman has presented a vision that encompasses the