

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

May 13, 2003

LB 407

balance. I did have a question. I think education certainly is a high priority. I think that's very evident in the Legislature. Think it's very evident across the state. K through 12 funding, community colleges, state colleges, we have a great system here in Nebraska in the fact that we do provide opportunity to our students across the state where our colleges are located, and that didn't just happen by accident. I think it's one of the great things and one of the great strengths that we have in our state. This morning, Senator Redfield passed out a sheet on where we stand as far as funding for higher education. I noticed that we were about 36th as far as tuition per student. Then I began to look at our neighboring states. There are three states that have higher tuition; there are three states that have lower tuition than ours. So we're right in the center. Those are the things--how much can our state or how much can our students stand in an increase in tuition? I think those are the things, some of the decisions, that we're going to have to make. I believe we do have to make some cuts. How much I don't know. I'd be more comfortable around the \$300 million range, just throwing out a figure. I think that that's the challenge that we have before us. I do disagree with Senator Byars this morning on why are we having this discussion. I believe it's important that we have this discussion. People have an opportunity to express their views. It gives us time to sort of mull over some of the proposals that have been before us, and I understand and again I appreciate Senator Erdman bringing...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: ...this proposal. I was talking to some Iowa representatives last weekend. They had a couple new freshmen senators propose a major tax revision in their state and it passed the house. So again, that new thinking I think is important in bringing forth some new ideas. So hopefully we can all work together and see if we can't come to some balance in this budget. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Redfield, on the Erdman amendment to LB 407.