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SENATOR BOURNE: Is that still in effect?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, I'm sure it is.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. So even though they're receiving a 3 percent increase, roughly \$2 million, they do have additional authority to make that up should we decide to effect a cut here?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Time. Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Let's take a total look at what this budget is that we are proposing to you. As the Governor said in his message, the hole is too deep for us to try and fill in one year, so for that reason we're looking at a three-year projection on trying to get a handle on our state finances. And I think it's...I always hear the word "cuts." That's all we need to do is make more cuts. I've heard that so often, but you seldom hear any meaningful suggestions as to how that's going to take place, and I'd like to give you an example. I think you have to look over a period of time to see what has been occurring by way changes in finance. Over the past four years, the university and colleges have been cut 14.4 percent. Now, the court system has been cut 6.5 percent. Let's talk about the courts for just a moment. One of the reasons why we wanted to hold the courts harmless from any cuts this year is the fact, number one, it's a separate agency. It's not an agency. It was called an agency, but it's not an agency. It's a separate branch of government. But in addition to that, they are currently down ten in the number of needed probation officers, and if we were to take any further money from them, it would have to come in this area, which is self-defeating, because with LB 46 and the number of people going out on probation, it's just simply impossible to handle that. So we have gone into these various segments of our budget and pretty carefully tried to analyze what the net effect of that would be. I said earlier today that there are approximately 250 new additional probationers in the state of Nebraska, which is showing an effective...an effective effort to try and reduce the prison population. However, over the noonhour, the fiscal