

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

March 30, 2004      LB 1089

agencies that were going to get unduly hurt, but it really makes it difficult to piecemeal. And I was looking through some of this, and I'll go...I'll talk a little more about it. I just noticed an example, Secretary of State. They've taken an...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...across-the-board cuts proposal here out of two different funds. In our budget we had done the Secretary of State out of only one fund because they'd had...they'd taken a whole cut because they had the ability to take that cut out of, in this case, the election fund rather than another fund. So there's going to be things like this in this amendment that are going to hurt some agencies because we make those adjustments as we go through, changing from Cash to General, General to Cash, feds, maximize use of federal funds. All those things we do on an issue-by-issue, agency-by-agency basis. And I'll explain some of that as we go along as to why it's difficult to speak to each of these, because many...sometimes we funded it from the Cash Fund instead of General Fund and were able to keep it, or we could do it temporarily, or there's a buildup in cash in an agency. We use that cash but it can only be done once. We've done that.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'll say a few words now, and then yield the balance of my time to Senator Wehrbein. I think the concept concerns me. I do appreciate Senator Redfield's interest in looking at this, but we sit in the appropriations process for approximately two months evaluating each and every one of the agencies and entities on this list. We talk to them. Now, to simply say let's don't bother with what the Appropriations Committee talks to these people, evaluates the concerns; let's go back to whatever the Governor said because the Governor's Office has been looking at this, therefore, we should defer to whatever the Governor's Office says, and I just object to that kind of a process. I think that if you have...if you have confidence in what the Appropriations Committee is doing, hearing each one of