

that many reductions in the bill. Actually if you pass 330 there's only about \$10 million worth of reductions left in the bill. Now the question, you know, why do you do that? Well I have long said it's always been difficult for me and I think other members of the Legislature as well, is can we afford to continue cutting all aspects of state government simply to make room for an ever-increasing Medicaid budget? You have to take the context of the fact that we were coming off of 4 1/2 percent reduction to the base in the last biennium. How much further do you want to do that simply pay for an increased Medicaid bill that is mandated to the State of Nebraska? But I think the committee's opinion was, well, if you do at least a few of the revenue increases talked about, you don't have to make those reductions and that's where we are right now. It's also important to understand that there has been a lot of talk about, you know, if you do this, where does that end up? Well I think you go back to the '89, to July 1, '89 to now and you look at the state operations component of our budget. The entire...you know, if you go from, if you go to July 1, '89 to the end of June '95, it can be argued that the state budget will have increased from \$537 million to \$663 million. Now that is the state operations and higher education component of the budget. The fact is of that \$125 million increase over that five-year period, 121 million of it went for negotiated salary increases in state government and higher education. Of that increase over a five-year period, only \$4 million of it went to something other than salaries and actually what we've been doing is we've been rearranging. I mean you take the salaries issues out of it, we've been rearranging \$4 million within state government and add it up. Actually, obviously corrections, you've been after salaries at an increase. Obviously the university, if you exclude salaries, they've had a decrease in their appropriations and over a five-year period that's zero growth for inflation with the exception of salaries. Actually the university has had a \$90 million decrease that five-year period if you take away salaries. Having said all that, I think the committee was of the opinion well, one, we want to restore some things and so we're not going to continue doing that. Two, obviously you can't continue to run in place. In a state like Nebraska and a budget as big as Nebraska is dealing with, there are new things, there are new demands, there are new directions we want to go in the State of Nebraska. And so there are a few of those things in LB 330 as well. The fact is, they are very, very marginal. If the Legislature would take the recommendation of the Appropriations Committee as well as the recommendation contained