

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Lindsay, and members, Senator Warner expressed some of the things that I was thinking of that when Senator Bromm asked his questions, and Senator Warner can express it so much better than I can when it comes to the numbers, but the Appropriations Committee has, this past two years, looked into at least two agencies in depth, not for overlapping necessarily but as to how they were functioning with the amount of money that they had and could they do things more efficiently and could they serve the people whom they served in a better and quicker and more efficient way. The second thing, I have introduced again a resolution, interim study, to look into the commissions that we have in place in the State of Nebraska. We had this two or three years ago, I can't quite remember, and it got lost in the shuffle. There was a lot of research done, which we have in place, to start again. But the point was to try to understand why these have proliferated all these years. We have so many commissions that are not code agencies. The people are appointed to these commissions by the Governor. They answer to no constituency when it comes right down to it. And whether or not all of those are necessary is something that I want to look at again. Governor Sam McKelvie, way back in 1920 at the Constitutional Convention, instituted the code agencies which are directly responsible to the governor and to the Legislature through the budget process. And Senator Chambers said earlier this morning that the Appropriations Committee was up on Mt. Olympus or somewhere. I don't feel that way at all. I feel like we're in the nether world. And this process this morning is your appropriations meeting, your evaluation of the budget. I think every...that's why I voted to bring LB 330 out, among other reasons, because I think each one of you needs to go back to your constituency and say why or why not that you do or do not support the money that counties and other subdivisions need to take care of people who are in need. Years ago we had on our property tax bill, in the county, a line that said OAS, Old Age Assistance. What the...I'm not...Old Age Assistance was what it was. Someplace along the line, Senator Warner is not here right now, and I don't know exactly when it was, so much of that was taken over by the state and not too long ago. The Medicaid and a lot of those benefits were taken over by the state so the counties didn't have to put in as much money which I assume was a direct benefit in some way or another for property taxes. So I think when you look at this whole thing this morning you have to realize that the budget process, I think sometimes it's backwards, but I'm not quite sure how I would change it, but the only way you can do it and we do review