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a row that the Appropriations Committee has made a commitment to go ahead and fund those salary increases that were established through bargaining or which were advanced, even for those individuals who are not a part of the bargaining unit, were advanced as what they would receive. I think it has some implications for the future. I believe that I can speak a little bit, I will speak for myself as a member of the Appropriations Committee, that in those periods of time when we face a crisis and we do not have enough money, then I think it is fair game to go back and look at across-the-board reductions and things. But, it was just our commitment to go ahead and come forward with the funds and I think that it is a policy issue that you need to be aware of and you need to have some thought about whether you agree with it because it is a huge part of our budget. It represents fully 50 percent of the incremental increase of where the Appropriations Committee is above the Governor is made up of the salary and it was a conscious decision on our part, and I hope that you can think about it and decide whether you agree with that method of handling our salary negotiations and our salary funding policy. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you Mr. Speaker and members. Would Senator Wehrbein please yield to a quick question, if you would?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein, will you respond?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR HILGERT: You said it was a 2.75 percent increase in the state employees salary and a 3 percent on the university.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR HILGERT: Can you just briefly say, explain why one gets 3 and one gets 2.75?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it is negotiated by the state agencies per the state of Nebraska for the 2.75. That is a negotiated figure, and the others got the same. The university in general,