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FLOOR DEBATE

April 23, 2001 LB 536

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Wehrbein, I appreciated your remarks in regard to the budget and the things that are going to come before us in the next couple three days, and one of the questions that I guess that always comes to the forefront when you're talk...start talking about budgets...before I ask the question I want everybody to understand that I support this bill. I'm not too sure about the Bruning amendment, but I do support the bill and I think we need to support it and get on with it. But my question is around this area that you discussed and that is if, in fact, there comes up when the budget is being discussed a shortfall somewhere, where do you think the cuts will be made? Do you have any idea? I mean, I know it's putting you on the spot, but that's a question that's going to come up and maybe you want to wait and talk about it tomorrow.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I will talk about it tomorrow. Actually, the way the budget we're presenting, it will be with our recommendations. As of last Friday afternoon, the budget will be in balance and there will be \$21 million...and/or \$21 million left for A bills, however you want...we'll have the minimum Reserve and \$21 million over the two years left for A bills with the recommended Cash Reserve transfers that have been talked about over the weekend.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, I'm pleased to hear that, because you hear so many things floating around the floor and I just kind of wanted to get it on the record that at this point things are not quite as gloomy as some have indicated, but there certainly is not an excess of funds. Is that right?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's true.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. Thank you, Senator. I ask Senator Dierks a question quite quickly.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Dierks, would you respond?

SENATOR VRTISKA: We've been talking about profitability and you made mention about profitability of ethanol and I think you're correct, but you made the question that they are profitable or will become profitable. What do you think the time frame is