

April 9, 1979

LB 589

session. The agency originally requested \$2.4 million approximately for the funding of that bill. There is an additional \$700,000 that the committee is recommending over and above that request that was made back in September and that additional amount reflects a revised estimate on the part of the agency. There is general funds provided at the level of \$29,000 in this bill as well as in the ETV budget which is for initial funding of a six year project to produce a new elementary and secondary education television series on Nebraska history. The total cost of this project when it is completed will be in the vicinity of \$900,000. The existing film is several years old, about fourteen or fifteen, as I recall, and it was felt by the Committee that it was appropriate to begin to renew that film and update it with it in color. The old one was also in black and white. There are some funds included for some minor revisions of some of the buildings such as visual fire indicators at the dorms for the School for the Deaf consistent with the Fire Marshal requirements. There is a fund in here of a \$5,000 level of general fund money for a match with the federal funds for career education program. Now this is the first of a five year program. There is language contained in the intent bill indicating that at the end of the five years this match will discontinue or the program should discontinue but that five year grant starts with zero match and then it was \$5,000 this year. It is \$110,000 next year, \$150,000 the following year and \$217,000 the fifth year of match with the federal funds for the program. It is designed to assist local school districts in the counseling or in the development of career educational programs. That essentially would cover the major items at least in the Department of Education. The Department of Revenue is a continuation budget. There is one major change here. The committee is recommending a level of \$794,000 increase over and above the agency's original request. This was developed at the public hearing on their budget in which response to questions by the committee the Director, the Tax Commissioner indicated that with this level of funding he felt that many if not most of all the problems of equalization of values between counties could be accomplished in eighteen months. Included in this is the employment of eight field men who would work with the individual counties. Also \$75,000 for computer experimental work. There is about \$150,000 for computer work, data processing required by the agency in processing the various requests, the various valuation figures submitted by the counties. It was the committee's feeling that this would be an excellent investment to attempt to give the Department, the Director, exactly what he felt would be required in order

3136