

nature of the overrides is to try and fund as the first priority salary increases. Now if I could talk about two of the departments, the Department of Banking and the Department of Insurance...I'm afraid that I am not as familiar with the Nebraska Brand Committee and its problems maybe as I should be, but I am sure there are others that are. If you want to look at the question of salaries, we find in these agencies a good deal of problem with such things as auditors and accountants, such things as bank examiners, such things as attorneys for the departments. We find these agencies in competition with private enterprises that can pay considerably more and do pay considerably more. The three percent adjustment that we are talking about does not bring themselves anywhere near in these types of specialized fields, anywhere near what the private sector has. If they are agencies where there are turnovers, if they are agencies where directors in the past have indicated that they have problems even filling positions let alone keeping them, it is such departments as the Department of Banking and the Department of Insurance. The impact of this on the state is important. It costs money and it takes time for new examiners to be trained. Vacant positions mean that certain inspections, certain audits, are not being able to be done or done as thoroughly as they should be. This is the type of problem that we are running into, and this is why in the case of these cash-funded agencies we feel that these vetoes should be overridden. In itemizing the budgets of these agencies, these three agencies, we do not feel that there is a cushion that they can provide these increases without seriously jeopardizing other programs. So these are three that we have recommended be overridden for salaries so that salaries can be competitive, so that these agencies can carry out the inspection and auditing and examination procedures that we have mandated. For this reason I support the override of LB 996.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers. Is Senator Chambers here?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, since a philosophical issue has been raised relative to the veto and whether...if it is sacred or not, I am going to address a couple of remarks to that point. There is nothing sacred about the veto at all. It is a prerogative of the Governor and our job as legislators is not to make him a good, responsible or any other kind of politician. His conduct will accomplish that. Our job is to enact the best legislation we, in our judgment, think should be enacted. If you look at the two words "veto" and "vote", you will see that they both are made up of the same four