

committee cuts, and it is Program 508, curriculum consultants within the Department of Education, \$225,000, and instead I would suggest that we take that \$225,000 from Program 642 which is the ITV Program, and that \$225,000, I want to stress this, would be for the production of ITV Programs, not for the purpose of providing the service of ITV. The reason for this is that the State Board of Education who is, I might remind you and I am sure I don't need to, is an elected body with the function of making the determinations, the policies, as far as the Department of Education is concerned and they have questioned the need to continue the local production of ITV films due to cost savings accrued by obtaining these programs from nationally organized consortiums such as the American Institute for Television. And the state board has already set the direction to discontinue the department of production or writing of those television programs. Furthermore, with the passage of LB 994 last year, and you should have a copy of part of that before you in the handout that I provided to you, the Legislature with 994 put in place some of the language that indicated that we expected the schools and the ESUs to cooperate and coordinate as they provide curriculum to the school children of the State of Nebraska. Now I know there are those people that believe that the curriculum consultants perhaps have not done the most good in the past, but I would remind you that with the change in 994 it is going to be more and more important to have somebody to help bring about that coordination and that cooperation. Now you also have before you a handout that at the top of it says this is what Program 508 curriculum consultants does. It lists six different things on there. Number one is assisting local schools; number two, developing the curriculum; number three, coordinating staff development, and so forth. It seems important to me that we give the state board through the department the ability to do what they believe is the best to do and, therefore, I would ask for the shift in these funds. Furthermore, if you will notice on the committee handout, the criteria, the criteria section, they don't have any number down. Well, I guess they do on this one too. They have number 4 down. They also have number 1 down for ITV, number 1 being that part of the criteria that says that there was, in fact, some other entities that could provide state agencies or public/private entities that could do it. Number 4 was the failure to fund would not affect enforcement of statute. I am sure that is necessarily true when you look at what 994 said.