

Senator McFarland, all of you heard it said many times, we're as low as we can go, nothing we can do. And what did we do? We went back again and again and again and we cut and we chopped. You would have believed at some time or another that the university would have ground to a screeching halt. You would have thought we would have had to open the gates of the penitentiary and release the inmates. You would have thought that the Department of Roads would have ceased to exist, but state government continued unabated. It continued without pause. It continued to operate efficiently, formally and I think with very little impediment. I think it continued to operate with far less impediment than 90 percent of the businesses and 95 percent of the farms in the State of Nebraska and I can understand what it is like to speak for a losing cause, but I can tell you very frankly that before this session is over, many of you who are continuing to vote for these expenditures will find yourselves facing some tough choices. I'm like someone else here this morning. I voted against the \$250,000 for the Farmers in Transition Program. I was reminded that it was bad for farmers for me to vote that way and I would have liked to have voted for the money. I recognize Senator Vickers' concern, justified. There are many other expenditures that we're going to have to take a hard look at. Senator Remmers has pointed out some of the inconsistencies in the funding for higher education. We can all find examples. I suggest that before the session is over and possibly even again, before the end of the fiscal year, we're going to be facing some really hard facts and I for one am not going to go back to the people of the State of Nebraska and say, no, we didn't think things were so tough out there, we gave the help the 3 percent raise, we would not put any limitation below that as to the amount of money that could be expended. We felt that we ought to continue to deliver services in the same style and manner that we had when times were good. Now I was here during those periods of those glorious seventies when each year we could keep tax rates flat and spend another 40 or 50 or \$60 million. It was kind of a nice time to serve. These are not good times in which to serve as a member of the Legislature. We have seen what has happened on the federal level because the federal government refuses to face reality. We have seen what has happened to cities that refuse to face reality. Nebraska is not in that condition, I recognize, but Nebraska must take the steps now to prevent finding ourselves in that situation. I would ask you to take a poll of your constituency...

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.