

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is by Senator Hefner.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Hefner, you have an amendment.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, which amendment is this one?

CLERK: It strikes the Landis amendment, Senator, Commission on the Status of Women.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, I'll withdraw that at the present time.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Remmers. (Remmers amendment is found on page 1622 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Remmers, on your amendment to LB 1251.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, any amendment that is directed to increasing the budget has not been greeted with any wild enthusiasm during this session. After the last report on the revenue picture any request for an increase must be supported with some pretty compelling reasons. I hope you will listen carefully and follow the handout on your desk. I think generally I have not supported excess spending, and I believe my voting record is quite conservative, but I have been a consistent supporter of education at all levels and I do so without apology. We can delay building of roads and make it up a few years later or we can delay salary increases without disrupting people's lives too much, but if we neglect education of our youth, it is a resource that is lost and it's very unfair to these young people. Yes, the economy is sluggish, but some things need to continue and education must not be neglected. I believe we have already cut too hard at all levels of postsecondary education. I think we have been cutting too hard on them. Now this amendment addresses the cut in one sector of postsecondary education that I believe goes beyond the other cuts. I'm asking for an additional \$80,000 for Peru State College. I keep hearing people suggesting the closing of Peru State College. I wish they would take a tour down at Peru and observe what is going on down there and I think they would find they have an institution down there that is doing a good job for the southeastern part of Nebraska. It is a viable institution. Yes, 12 or 15 years ago there was a time that we had some serious problems and I think they were internal problems and I imagine at that time I would have had a difficult time