

the most sense to the committee. You will notice over here under the permanent cuts, we accepted first of all, agencywide voluntary reductions which they presented to us at our first committee hearing. Some of those kinds of things are reduction in personal services due to vacancies, reduction in operating expenses, data processing, printing and so forth, travel expense, those kinds of cuts. And you do have, I believe, in your packet that was distributed this morning their recommendations as an agency. The Committee then went ahead and considered the kinds of things that were suggested as modifications or cuts that they would cut next year and this relates to one of the things that Senator Nelson questioned a few moments ago. The agency indicated to us that they would cut...they would eliminate the funding for the Nebraska Fire Service and they would consolidate the School for the Deaf and the Visually Handicapped. The Committee did not consider either of those as a way to make a permanent cut at this time. Consolidating the School for the Deaf and the Visually Handicapped, obviously, would require legislation. The Fire Service cuts, the agency's position was that that really was not an area that is their primary responsibility. The Committee has identified a need to look at consolidating all the various agencies that do, in fact, train fire people, but for right now, there wasn't really any dollars to be saved. It would have simply meant a shift and probably would not have served the needs of your volunteer fire service very well at this point. So that is something we will be looking at in the future, but for right now, neither of those were viewed as possible cuts. The other things...generally, the Committee consensus is that we elected to go ahead and reduce the unspent amount of funds in LB 994 and finally then, the rest is taken out of Program 508, instructional support. There are now some vacancies there and there are vacancies in the Driver Ed position, too, I believe. So that is a summary at least of the rationale of the Committee recommendations.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any further discussion on the amendment? Senator Vickers, did you want to speak further on that amendment?

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, I have an amendment to the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right, we'll take you now on the...Mr. Clerk.