

believe the Games and Parks Commission, Section 28, Agency #33.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Warner. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. After the debate which I thought was very positive, a good experience, I think though it is important that we reorient ourselves to where we were in the budget and the process that we are proceeding under. And you will recall that the way we made our decisions in the committee was based on an assumption that we had no guarantee of revenues coming in. We were worked under that constraint all the way through. We targeted a 3 percent across-the-board decision and then worked through and as we worked through we recognized that some agencies because of particular mandates or because they were entitlement programs, or whatever, it is simply impossible to always do 3 percent. And yet to maintain the target figure, what that also means is to increase the burden carried by some other agencies. The Game and Parks Commission happens to be one of those agencies that picks up that burden. And so I would like to explain to you what the committee's recommendation was in that respect. We have offered a permanent reduction of \$362,576 in the operations funds. That is a 5.65 percent reduction. You need to know that this agency is very heavily cash funded. I believe the testimony given in the committee it was about 70 percent cash funded, as I recall. That has created some problems for the agency. They are struggling very hard to meet that. I think sometimes it is a real challenge but, nevertheless, we looked at the operation side by side and large and we made some recommendations. We made some specific cuts. We eliminated a general fund support of park food service operations to the tune of \$46,338. The information that we have available is that the food service is actually self-supporting, actually generates enough revenue to carry its own weight. That simply removes General Fund support from that. Likewise, with the Nebraskaland magazine General Fund support is eliminated, doesn't mean there won't be a Nebraskaland magazine. It simply means that the General Fund amount of the money that goes into that magazine is no longer there. On down the line the same kind of decision with visitor's services and resale items of park areas; reducing the maintenance crew staffing by seven people, \$69,847; and eliminating a permanent staff at Victoria Springs, \$19,442. I need to add on that, that I believe