

increased enrollment to be asked to take the very same cuts as one with a very, very low percentage. I also might mention, I have in front of me which I received just over the weekend or Monday, that maybe a lot of people in this body do not know and I'm just pointing this out as a point. From 1968 until 1983 our state General Fund increased 590 percent. Aid to local governments increase was infinite. Higher education's increase was 588 percent in that time. All other spending increased 186 percent and the inflation factor was 186 percent. So those are again some figures that we must have to consider when we're considering the budget. Thanks.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, and I apologize for not putting you ahead of Senator Nelson which I should have done.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll accept your apology and, Senator Nelson, I think you gave a great speech there. But several weeks ago I appeared before the Appropriations Committee and this was on behalf of Senator Lamb's and my bill and this would cut it 4 percent. This would take the Governor's bill that he proposed and instead of cutting it 3 percent it would cut it 4 percent and the Appropriations Committee told me that 4 percent wasn't as great as what they were taking testimony on the day before. At that time the Appropriations Committee was proposing a 5.65 percent cut and I said, well, I'd certainly support that too and I certainly would of if they would have stayed with that and so they have changed their minds. I don't want to condemn them for doing that because they have certainly got a lot of information that I haven't received. But I believe, I sincerely believe that the state agencies, local government, department heads, higher education and local government can cut their budgets 4 percent. I come from a predominantly rural area. We've had two bank closings in my district. We've had many farmers declare bankruptcy or being foreclosed on. We've had many small businesses close their shops and so things are tough. Things are tough especially in the rural areas. When you come down to Lincoln, go to Omaha, they seem to be doing pretty good, but I can't help believe that this will trickle down to them and that they will be having problems within the next year. Most of my constituents that I talked to back home says, we need to cut the budget. We can't stand another raise in taxes and I know some of you say, well, if