

elected to do. As all of you know by now, we've had this discussion often enough, the Board of Regents is an independently elected body that has budgetary authority over the University of Nebraska. They are the ones charged with the responsibilities of determining how that money is to be spent. In good times, when it is adding programs, when it is increasing benefits, they rush to the fore to be those people that get credit. I think now in tough times we should allow them to share the tough decisions, allow them to make the cuts where they deem it responsible. They are elected by the people. They have fought hard to keep this authority. They fought hard against some of my wishes in the past to keep this authority. And they are the ones that should make the cuts. They like very much, as I've said, to take credit in good times. In bad times, like last year, last spring, when we had to cut some money out of the University budget, we did an across-the-board cut to the University budget. That is all we can do as the Legislature. We gave some strong intent language on the floor of the Legislature, however, in our debate saying we would like to see that money taken out of the athletic program. It became a very simple buck passing process, when it got to them then, to rubber stamp that debate, that intent language and say sure, Legislature, you made the tough decision, we don't have to, we'll just put a rubber stamp on it. Here again we are doing the same thing. We are telling them you have independent authority to act, but here is how we would like to do it. What are they going to do? They are going to leave these programs alone, and what then are they going to have to do? They've got to do something, they've got to cut some place. They are going to cut elsewhere. What are they going to do? They are going to point back at the Legislature and say you tied our hands, you wouldn't let us cut these other programs we wanted to, so we had to go after the rest of the UN-O athletic program, which I don't want them to do. We had to go after programs, academic programs, at Lincoln, which I don't want them to do. I hope they can save these particular programs. I hope they can fund them with some types of cuts that make them manageable programs. I hope they can run an excellent University system. I tend to think that they probably can under the cuts that we gave them. But I think we need to leave that authority with them and not do their work for them particularly, as Senator Wesely has said, when some of us stand here and propose more cuts and more cuts, and then to turn around and say, yes, but we didn't mean our favorite