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LB 1214

deficit year in appropriations when we really usually don't do a whole lot, have a few requests. We were faced with \$80 million worth of requests, I would say that's absolutely unprecedented for a deficit year, and many of those things were entitlements and growth in the base of the budget that we could not say "no" to. And so when we are looking at whether or not we're going to do property tax relief and how much, the other thing that we have to look at in conjunction with that is whether the amount that we are spending builds into the base. Part of the \$14 million is obvious...that has been allocated for A bills obviously is going to build into the base. Much of the \$80 million that we're talking about is going to build into the base. The property tax relief aspects, either through the community college or through the refund amount, are one-time only, and so those are things that then we can come back and make changes to if the availability of the money is not there in the future. And, as I said before, when you go into an appropriations process in a deficit year and have to figure out a way to fund the size of the requests that were...that we had to fund, it's pretty awesome and I think it's a lesson for us for what the future might bode. And so whatever we do I think we need to proceed cautiously with any items that are going to build into the base and commit us for the future. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Wickersham, on the Chambers amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1214.

**SENATOR WICKERSHAM:** Mr. President, members of the body, I'm going to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. I'm not sure whether it's put up there for discussion or as a serious effort to make adjustments. I want to make a couple points. One, Senator Brown says that part of the reason we're confronted with choices here today is because we have unprecedented deficits, unprecedented deficits, \$80 million worth of deficits. I don't know whether the Appropriations Committee explored exactly why we're confronted with an unprecedented amount of deficits or not, but sometime this afternoon or at other points in the budget discussion I'd certainly like to know why we have \$80 million in deficits. If we're experiencing an unprecedented level it seems to me that the Legislature, as a whole, is entitled to some explanation, and by asking for an explanation