

we are going to go probably from a 7% to 9%. Is it out of line for the State of Nebraska to go 9% as opposed to 7%? I say not. We are living in a highly inflationary time when costs of government are going up dramatically and we have to recognize it. Unless you and I are prepared at this juncture to begin to prune programs, to begin to close down, for example, needless colleges, if they exist to begin to cut back on needless state aid programs, if they exist, to begin to cut out needless governmental operations, if they exist, and it seems to me the best way of handling the inflationary growth that exists is to continue to try to fund existing operations in accordance with their needs. Now the DeCamp amendment, what it does, it tries to keep us tied to a 7% figure, this time balancing however state aid priority with university priority with state governmental operation priority and the like. That balance, in my opinion, is misplaced. It is misplaced so long as we are operating in an inflationary economy without our taking the steps to literally cut back, to literally cut back on governance. Now, when we begin the process of cutting back on governance then we can come within a 7% figure. But until such time I submit it is inappropriate for us to do so.

PRESIDENT: Before we go on to the next speaker, the Chair would like to introduce some guests of Senator Maresh, 20 third and fourth graders from Davenport, Nebraska, Janet Anderson and four mothers. They are up here in the north balcony. Would they wave to us. Welcome to your Legislature. Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. The question then is shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? The question is shall debate cease. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator DeCamp, you may close.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members, I want to tell you about the most powerful lobbyist in the State of Nebraska and the most sacred animal in the state. The most powerful lobbyist is a friend of mine, no not that one, this one is named Ron Roskens. Ron has a technique that I have found unequaled by anybody. Ron comes up, puts his hand over your shoulder and he says, John, Ron, Rex, Bernice,