

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, I don't know that I would assume that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is that very probable?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: To my recollection there hasn't been any formal discussion relative to the Appropriations Committee as a whole taking positions on any bills pending that have an appropriation attached to them.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so there's been no blood oath, and we can expect to see various of you departing from the Appropriations Committee's recommendations, depending on your individual philosophies, huh?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Well, conversely I wouldn't assume that either.

SENATOR BEUTLER: (Laugh.) Okay. The reason that I'm pointing that out is that those of us who have been here before know very well how it works. And even though they may stray once in a while, mainly there will be nine votes against almost everything that's proposed in terms of changing the Appropriations Committee budget for ongoing appropriations. It will be tough to get anything changed that's there, we know that. That budget then allows for \$17 million, over the two-year period allows for \$17 million to be spent on A bills. Okay? Is that correct, Senator Maurstad? He shakes his head "yes", that's roughly correct. Now, looking down at your sheet under "Major Bills Pending", the first block shows bills costing funds, that is the amount of spending represented by our priority bills, and only the priority bills from General File. And if you look at the figure at the bottom there we have \$60 million worth of bills compared to \$17 million that we have to spend without increasing an already liberal Appropriations Committee budget. Now, we can save ourselves a little bit if we pass these bills that are gaining funds, that is if we pass Senator McKenzie's special education reimbursement cap, you can see the category of five bills there that we need to pass in order to salvage \$16 million to pay for those \$60 million of bills that are going to cost us, A bills that are going to cost us this year. So if we subtract those out, you see we need to come up with \$44 million in order to fund the priority A bills this session. And we only have