

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I would support both Senator Warner's amendment and I would support the bracket motion. It would seem to me that if we are going to tell counties and other entities that we need to hold...they need to hold their spending to the 4 percent level, and yet we ourselves not be willing to subject ourselves to that same requirement, it is wrong. The people in my district, the people throughout the state are crying to hold the line on taxes. I've been a part of budget committees for many years and we have submitted budgets and they have been put back to us and said, work harder, try again. I do appreciate what the Appropriations Committee have done in the last 70 days. They have worked with figures, they have heard testimony, they have been very diligent in their duties and I respect that. But it would sure appear to me that the most appropriate body to look at cutting spending would be the Appropriations Committee. We can sit here as a body and chip and chisel away, trying to cut some spending out, but yet who is better to address that situation than the Appropriations Committee itself. I passed around some sheets this morning, I would really ask you to take a look at this. It just gives a little chronological order of where we are and where we're going. In January of '94 the Wall Street Journal reported that Nebraska's government is growing twice the rate of its population. Later on that same month the World-Herald reported that Nebraska's growth of government has risen 23.5 percent since 1983. Take a look at that number, and on many of them it is highlighted. It has grown since 1983 from 12,575 personnel to 15,547. Then go back to the second page and you will see that we have increased now up to 17,000 people working for the State of Nebraska, and still our population is not growing. The only thing that is growing is state government and we must put a stop to that. I also put in there the bills that are on Select File, bills that are in Final Reading and the number of personnel that this body has added, some 33, that doesn't include 455, the welfare program, it doesn't include anything that the crime program might produce. And every day we add more. Yesterday Senator Bernard-Stevens was asking for additional personnel for his area, and his request is valid. But we must stop the growth of government in this state. I certainly think that Senator Warner has the right approach. And then I also really do feel that we need to follow up and return to the Appropriations Committee the budget so that they can work with their experience that they've had in the past to pare down this growth that we have going on. I would urge you to look at the figures I've presented, look at the fact that five of the