

six largest employers...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...in this state are government employers. We also have an aged population. The best economic development, and I worked on the Micron bill, I'll admit that, I have been supportive of economic development, but the best economic development is low taxes. If you've got low taxes you don't have to look for companies, they will look for you. We must stop the growth of government, we must hold down taxes, I think this is a way to do that. I would urge the body's support to bracket the motion, send it back to appropriations. And then if appropriations come back with a 4 percent increase, that we as a body would adopt that and not try to get our own special interests in there to increase various entities, but would accept that 4 percent increase and pass it onto the Governor. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Coordsen, your light is next.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Well so far I guess everyone that spoke is probably right. I rise, by the way, to support Senator Warner's amendment primarily because I understand, to at least some extent, the problems that the Appropriations Committee members have under our current system. There isn't altogether that much flexibility. Salary contracts are written on the outside, and money is expected to be appropriated to fulfill them. Body of the Legislature, over the years, has created an immense number of mandates that are outside of the control of the members of the Appropriations Committee. I don't think that any of the concern that is expressed on the budget today, or yesterday, or any other time that we talk about it bears any negative reflection upon the actions of the Appropriations Committee that resulted in the budget that we have before us in this session for the next biennium. However, as Senator Jensen indicated, we need to find mechanisms to be affordable. I think, for example, in the past that the body of the Legislature has been treated inappropriately in some news reports reflective of budget growth when all of the budget is taken in total and there is not a proper allocation made for the significant portion of the budget of the State of Nebraska that goes back to the local units of government, through all of the various mandates and state aid