

committee system. If you have trust and confidence in the people that you put on the Appropriations Committee, then let's get on with working on the budget.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Before we go to the next speaker, there are guests in the north balcony. Senator Robinson has 10 second and third graders from Immanuel School in Herman, Nebraska, with their teacher; and Senator Brashear has 77 fourth graders from Grace Abbott Elementary in Omaha, with their teachers. Would you please stand, all of you, and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for joining us today. The next speaker, Senator Cudaback, on the amendment to the bracket motion.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. President and members, for some of the reasons that Senator Maurstad said he was opposed to returning it to the Appropriations Committee, I was in favor of returning it to the Appropriations Committee. When our speaker, Senator Withem, returned the crime bill, so-called crime bill, to the proper committee, the Judiciary Committee, I thought what an excellent idea, what an excellent idea. When you have that many amendments onto a bill and it will take hours and hours and hours to go through on the floor, why not send it back to the committee and let them sort through it. I thought that was an excellent, excellent idea. When this was brought to us by Senator Robinson on this bill we have before us now. I thought what an idea also. Why not send it back to a committee that I have heard nothing but praise for. Not that our prior committees in the 1985-86, '90, whatever, weren't good, but I haven't heard nothing but praise for our current Appropriations Committee. They work hard. As Senator Maurstad said, they work hard. He knows what goes on in his committee and they do it well. Senator Schrock, Senator Hillman, all of them, Senator Wehrbein, I can't name them all, but they are a good... a good solid committee, and I thought why not send this very, very important bill back to a committee that knows what they are doing? Would we mandate that they cut? I don't think we can do that. We shouldn't do that, but we can send it back, they'd go through the amendments as stated, but we would have to live by those thoughts that they had. Now if they bring those thoughts back to us and we try to amend them again, as Senator Chambers pointed out, we are not saving anything. We're just then going to hash through the same old things again, it wouldn't be any good. So I may have second thoughts on this, on returning it to the Appropriations Committee, not because of their expertise,