

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Maurstad. Seeing no further lights, Senator Bernard-Stevens to close on his motion to override.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I will close with two points. And I guess this really will be a closing, a real closing, at this point, the final closing. Two points I would like to make, please remember that when this budget, whether we override...override nothing or override this or whatever we might do, and I don't anticipate there will be, if this goes, which I would be surprised if it did, I don't anticipate anything else going anyway, but, nonetheless, please remember that on the budget sheet that will go out, the official record of where we will be at, we'll be at \$12 million above the 3 percent reserve. If you don't override it, we will be still \$12 million above the 3 percent reserve. If you do override this, we will be about \$11.4 million over the 3 percent reserve. Is that what we have to do constitutionally as a body? Yes. We have to do that. What will happen then if the forecast board comes back and would downsize its projections, and what happens then if by that downsize we fall below that 3 percent reserve, and the answer to that is, nothing. Nothing happens. That has happened before. The 3 percent reserve is there for that reason. The only time you get into difficulty is when you do get to zero and you can't fund government at all, then you have to have a special session, and that's not going to happen. It's not going to happen. So if anyone is voting just because they think that, well, we can't afford it, wrong. We can afford it. The second point I will make on closing is that this body has consistently said how much we are concerned about crime in Nebraska, but if you go consistently over the last 25 to 30 years in Nebraska and you look at what we've done on juvenile justice, you will find that it's been totally ignored with the exception of the last three years. Absolutely ignored. What we have got to do in this state is not only be tough on crime; stiffer sentences, if that's what the public wants; more prisons, if that's what the public wants and if that's what the Legislature wants; but we have got to face up to the fact that the crime starts with the young people. The crime starts with the young people and there is nothing out there in two-thirds of the state to help them at all, nothing. The only thing we're asking, that I'm asking you to do is to put this 600,000, that will still keep us at