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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler is recognized to open on his amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Maurstad, members of the Legislature, instead of going from 50 to 100 percent, this amendment would take us from 50 to 70 percent, and it is for the reasons that I discussed with you earlier, that it makes some sense, perhaps, not to repeat the mistakes of the past and go all the way to 100 percent, and then be over...overstaffed in the guard, but rather to try an incremental approach which is more amenable to the budget that we can produce this year, gives some assistance to the guard and, hopefully, will help with their situation, but would require us to pay only about \$400,000 instead of a million dollars, and leave a little room for other A bills in the projected budget. Having said that, let me also say that I think one of the main reasons for their problem is simply the full employment situation that exists in the country today, and here in Nebraska today, and that that full employment situation is not just putting pressure...is not just putting pressure on the guard, but, in fact, will put pressure on all state government positions, and that this idea of greater incentives in one form or another in order to keep one form or another of state employees is going to be one we'll be looking at this session probably in a large number of areas. And, obviously, there are costs associated with each and every one of those, most of which are not in the budget. So we need to get over the hump here and to approach it slowly, but I think in terms of all the considerations, the more reasoned approach is a more cautious approach, and the approach I'm suggesting to you is that we go up to 70 percent instead of all the way up to 100 percent. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY PRESIDING

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Discussion on the Beutler amendment. Senator Chris Peterson, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Yes, Senator Crosby, speak to the bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Senator Janssen, on the Beutler amendment.