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reasons in Nebraska to be concerned about nitrates and the coats...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...costs associated with the nitrates. But beyond that and something that I always worry about is the interest of the federal government and the interest of other states in the nitrate problem and what we do here in Nebraska, and the danger that they will come in with additional programs and additional requirements that are designed by them and not designed by us. And I have passed out to you, in that regard, another growing problem relating to nitrates that indicate a reason why the federal government is going to take more interest in this. It's the article relating to the Gulf zone area, to Louisiana and the enlarging dead zone down there that now is becoming more and more associated with the use of nitrates, not just in Nebraska, but in the whole Mississippi Basin, and I think we have to be cognizant...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that those problems are out there.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Kremer would like to announce there are 41 high school seniors from Nebraska Christian High School located in Central City, Nebraska. Students are from Hall, Hamilton, Merrick County, Senator Kremer's district; York, Senator Stuhr's district; Howard, Senator Schmitt's district; Rock and Cherry, Senator Jones' district; Holt, Senator Dierks' district; Saline, Senator Byars' and Senator Coordsen's district; and Platte, Senator Bromm and Senator Robak's counties, along with their teacher. (Introduced teacher.) Please join me in welcoming, if you'd please rise, to the Nebraska Legislature. For discussion on the Beutler amendment, the speaker's list is Coordsen, Wickersham, Schellpeper, Schrock, Bohlke, Beutler, and Preister. Chair recognizes Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I hope, very briefly, a history of the fertilizer tax as it came into existence and as it is currently being used, and my analysis of why the Revenue Committee took