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LR 3

various committees make determinations as to what they think is in the best interest of furthering matters in their respective committees, but they do not have the opportunity in that session to look at how that impacts the other committees or the total budget of the state. So what happens is that we can control, to a certain extent, what we do through the Appropriations Committee saying this is our target and so forth, but when it comes to the floor then matters come up in the form of appropriations bills on an individual basis and, frankly, we have absolutely no control over what happens in connection with bills that are presented in this fashion. And, as it stands, when those bills are passed on an individual basis, they...each one of them has its own merit and I'm not...I'm not going to debate that. I think that they all have virtue.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. For discussion on the committee amendments, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I...so you're not confused, this amendment is something I think that if we move forward this should be adopted as a committee amendment. But to get back on...but if we do adopt this, the next thing that comes up is Senator Coordsen's amendment to LR 3, and I would like to discuss the body of LR 3 before we move into that discussion, mainly because I have always thought as we go along here that the important thing is, is have a discussion of our budget early in the session. That, to me, is the value of LR 3. We are probably having this discussion 60 days early. This well may be in May when we'd be having the discussion. This year, because of the interest in the budget, we are spending and tend to spend quite a bit of time, particularly this morning, on this yellow copy that was handed out. I'd like to call your attention to page 8 of the handout, because it does explain the major increases that we've had this year. And I would like to remind you, for those that are talking about this year's A bills, which now are several millions of dollars, a lot of what is in this year's budget that we are presenting here is last year's A bills and previous