

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 2, 1999

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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Wickersham, on the committee amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I don't want to speak on the committee amendments. I'll want to speak to the next amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham waives off. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of both the resolution and the committee amendment which really just averages out the 3 percent. I think this issue apparently is lacking some interest on the part of this body, but I think that's a mistake. I think there is an inherent challenge in this resolution to this body to arrive at some type of procedure or sanction that will establish priorities in spending. This is my first year on the Appropriations Committee and, quite frankly, I'm somewhat astonished at what I think is a systemic defect in our procedure. We take A bills and we give them preferential treatment. We deal with them on the floor, and they are passed without ever facing the scrutiny of a committee. We would not stand for that in any other phase of our work. If I offer a bill on educational matters and expect the body to vote on it, on the floor of the Legislature, I would be severely criticized. It has to go to a committee. I don't want to pick on anybody's priority A bills this year, but I can give you an example of one of my own. Last year my priority bill dealt with foster care adoption. It had a \$2 million A bill. I worked it out in my office with advice from the Fiscal Office. It went through this body without any scrutiny by the Appropriations Committee. I never had to face the same machinery, the same scrutiny, the same examinations, the same questions that everybody else has to with their mainline budget item. I think we make a severe mistake in our procedure by letting A bills sail through the Legislature without committee scrutiny. I support the 3 percent target, and this is a target. It is not a limitation. It is not a lid. I, personally, feel that if we are successful in holding the growth in spend to within the 3 percent category we will have been successful, but I do not think we can expect that kind of success unless we're able to discipline ourselves and submit our various A bills to the same scrutiny as other items in the budget. I think our