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system needs to be reformed. I think there has to be sanctions, there has to be a procedural change so that we can assure that there is some degree of prioritizing of spending. If not, we face what Senator Beutler most correctly referred to as a rather haphazard process, and I'm afraid our process is, in fact, too haphazard, and I think that the first step is to adopt this resolution and place a target before us. The next step would be some challenge to this body to establish a procedure for prioritizing bills. It would require each one of us to give up that prerogative of introducing an A bill and avoiding scrutiny of it by just seeking its passage on the floor of this Legislature. I think this is one of the most serious challenges to this body that I have seen in the few years that I have been here and I think it is a necessary reform and I commend the Appropriations Committee and I commend this resolution to you and ask for your support of it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Schimek would move to amend the committee amendments. (See FA41 on page 796 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Members, because of the number of lights on, after Senator Schimek opens on her amendment, I intend to clear the board. So those that want to speak on the Schimek amendment, please put your light on. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. My amendment is quick and easy to understand. It moves the figure to 3.5 percent and it gives us a basis for discussion of other choices. I'm not certain that I'm totally comfort...have a total comfort level with the choice that we have before us. And, Senator Matzke, I listened carefully to your comments and I appreciate the difficulties that we do have prioritizing some time...some times, but I really do feel that if we would move that target figure up just a little bit, it would give us some...some flexibility here on the floor and I think that there are sometimes occasions when we need that flexibility. Senator Beutler I'm sure will talk about it, but if you notice the handout that he handed out, where it talks about the total General Fund increases over the last six years and the CPI increases over the last five or six years, I guess it's six