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SENATOR BEUTLER: In fact, we could spend \$44 million on A bills, but it requires a certain discipline to do the right thing in this atmosphere. And I think this resolution guides us towards that discipline.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Peterson would like to announce...Senator Chris Peterson would like to announce the following guests are visiting the Legislature, located and seated in the north balcony: 50 seventh and eighth graders from the Barr-Westridge Walnut Middle School Orchestra, and their teacher (introduced teacher). If you would rise, we'd like to welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Thank you. For further discussion on the Schimek amendment to the committee amendments, Senator Brown, followed by Senators Engel, Wehrbein, Crosby, Kristensen, Wickersham, and Beutler. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, the Schimek amendment would allow a lot of leeway and make it much easier for the Appropriations Committee and the body, but the interesting thing is that, by setting a 3 percent target, we have made the discussion anywhere between 3 percent and 4 percent, which is essentially what our limitation is by our revenue growth right now, rather than zero and 4 percent, where we might be having a different kind of discussion. And we do have to look at this in the context of the spending that we've had over the last four years, the spending that we've had over the last ten years, and whether we have the intestinal fortitude to be very disciplined at a certain point in time. Yes, we have had the opportunity to address some unmet needs. We have tried to do that primarily in one-time only expenditures, in infrastructure expenditures, things that we need to do to maintain investments that we've made in the past. And the 15 million that we've talked about in new spending, under the Schimek proposal, one of the things that we have to keep in mind is the cumulative effect of what we do in terms of new spending on the floor. It's much easier to have a significant increase in one year, in one-year expenditures, that are not built into the base, that do not become ongoing. But what I've seen here so often is that we pass appropriations bills...I mean A bills and we will put a sunset on them so that we can get them passed, and the sunset is always taken off, and that money always becomes ongoing and always becomes built into