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LR 3

broken. And I...even if it was broken, I don't think LR 3, either as proposed by Senator Brown and now amended by the committee amendments, or Senator Coordsen's proposal would fix it, because they simply substitute arbitrary limitations. And those are arbitrary limitations, no matter how you define them, for the judgment of elected representatives. And arbitrary limitations when placed against the judgment of elected officials will always fail, in my estimation, in many respects. That is essentially what I think the argument is about. But the argument also misses the mark on a couple of other standards. One, we haven't heard a word today about the items of expenditure that are off-budget. Does anybody in this body have any idea what those items are, or what I'm talking about, or even if they're significant? Let me give you a hint. LB 775 credits are off-budget, those are monies that the state of Nebraska never sees, because they're credits. They reduce revenue before they're ever included in the appropriations process. They're off-budget. Are they ever reviewed? Are they ever set up against priorities for other measures that are important to the state? No. Are they significant? They're running at about \$155 million a year. You can judge for yourself whether you think they are significant. The Governor's income...the Governor's property tax proposal proposes to move another chunk of the budget off-budget, through a transfer of funds into a trust fund. So we'd have another proposal that moves things off-budget. We had a number of proposals that came to the Revenue Committee this year that were going to move expenditures off-budget, those were proposals for income tax credits, and in some case property tax credits for a variety of good and worthy purposes. We even had a proposal to use a credit to encourage adoptions. That proposal would have been off-budget. You would have never known how much we were spending on that program, had it been brought to the floor in the form that it was brought to the Revenue Committee. The committee amendments for that proposal will put that initiative on budget. You'll get to know what we're spending or not spending, and you'll have an opportunity to discuss why we should or shouldn't. So part of what you're seeing in this discussion is not all of the discussion, by any means. There is a great deal of expenditure that is off-budget,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.