

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

March 2, 1999

LR 3

time comes, and it quite probably will come, that we have to meet in special session, I rather suspect to reduce the budget we will, across-the-board, make the necessary reductions to make it work out. To do otherwise, to share the burden among all of the programs is probably the better process. To do otherwise denies the citizens of Nebraska...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...some place, somewhere what they want. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Bromm would like to announce the following guests are visiting the Legislature, from Bruno District 86, 20 students and four teachers. They are in the north balcony. If you'd rise, we'd like to welcome you. For further discussion on the Coordsen amendment, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I don't intend to discuss the Coordsen amendment, as nobody else has. And I take it Senator Coordsen has put it up for discussion purposes primarily. But let's go back and talk a little bit about some of Senator Wickersham's remarks and the idea that the process should be left...essentially they're saying the process should be left exactly as it is. It's true that we need to meet the needs of the state, and we need to identify each year what the needs of the state are. But we know a couple of things. One, we know that needs is an endless word, that...and it is also not a word that means the same thing to all 49 of us. Obviously one bill can be seen as a need by a large number of us and not as a need by others. But there are two processes, two problems, as I see it, with the democratic process as it's exercised year by year in here, and one is the inevitable trading-up process that does not have a corresponding trading-down process. And what I mean by that is when we get to the end of the session and you have something you really care about there, sitting as an A bill, there is a tendency to develop the philosophy that, okay, if some others will vote for my A bill, I'll vote for their A bill, and all together we'll vote for maybe four or five A bills, of which perhaps I only agree with three or four of them, if they had been voted up or