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LR 3

on the Coordsen amendment, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I just have a couple of other remarks to make. I ran out of time, last time. The notion that we always spend everything that there is, how many times have you heard that? How many times have you believed that? But is it a fact? No, it's not a fact. In fact, last year, last year, when this body adjourned we could have spent, within the legal requirements that are imposed on us now, another \$9.9 million. Did we do it? Obviously not, because that \$9.9 million was there. There were plenty of opportunities to do that. There were more gubernatorial vetoes that could have been overridden, and we could have spent everything that there was, but we didn't. We don't, we don't have to, and I don't think that we will, if we are able to bring and force ourselves to give thoughtful consideration to the proposals that come before us. For those of you who are new to the body, you're unfamiliar, or you would...there would be no reason you'd necessarily have familiarity at the moment with the rest of the process. Once we get the budget recommendations to the floor, you'll see an additional piece of information that will come to you. It will show A bills that are pending. It will show the Appropriations Committee's recommendations, and whether any of that or all of that fits. And at that point in time we begin to make judgments about how things are going to go, or how we're going to propose that they go, and try to make things fit. Now sometimes we need a little assistance from the Governor, but that's not all bad, the Governor has to have something to do, after all. And I don't mind the fact that the Governor is given that responsibility, and that occasionally we have to come back and reconsider the recommendations and judgments of the Governor. There's nothing wrong with that process. And there isn't anything wrong with that, I think, as far as the information that the people of the state of Nebraska receive and the rationales, and the reasons, and the priorities that are given to the various proposals. I do not think our system is broken. It can maybe be improved. In fact, Senator Raikes, standing off to the side here, had an intriguing proposal for me that I want to think about a little bit. But I don't.... I really again will reiterate that I do not think, as much as I respect Senator Coordsen, that the proposal he's offering to you, or LR 3 in the main, is an appropriate choice.