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**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Raikes. On the Kristensen amendment, Senator Beutler.

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I continue to believe strongly that the Kristensen amendment is the right middle course for us. Are we on the right track? Have we been on the right track? I would argue vociferously that we have been on the right track, that we are in fact on the right track. In terms of further reducing the levy from \$1.10 to \$1, that is already included in the appropriations budget for the out-years. The money is there. With the Wickersham amendment you've protected that drop in the levy. So the right track will continue. That's not the question here, in my opinion. The question here is a matter of flexibility in difficult times. And remember that this situation is going to continue to be somewhat different from a regular appropriations situation in the sense that the money will be certified to the Legislature before the Appropriations Committee makes any decision on what to put in the appropriations bill. That means that you all will know, the Appropriations Committee will know, everybody will know exactly what we have to do in order to fulfill the state aid formula and keep the pressure off property taxes. And that decision will be made...will be there for you clearly to decide. If the Appropriations Committee doesn't fill the certification, then you can reject the Appropriations Committee recommendation and put the money in. I expect that that's what you would do in almost all situations because, obviously, we all feel strongly about that. But that notwithstanding, the time will come again when we will be in trouble, if we're locking all of these things in. And if we lock them in for the purpose of stability in one area, what we're doing, in effect, is creating greater instability in another area, and taking away our ability to look at the various kinds of instability that will be created in tough times and make judgments about how to adjust those things. We need to save money, but we need to have everybody conscious of saving money. We need to put money in reserve. Earlier in this session, when we argued the 3 percent resolution, there seemed to be a tailing off of interest in making a decision about our overall budget. But if you want to put another \$30 million into a reserve fund to preclude negative effects in