

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

March 16, 1999 LB 179

with the continuing appropriations and with all of the A bills that would go through. That would be spending at the high 4 percent level. Spending...that'd be spending all the money that we have. If you wanted to discipline...if this body wanted to discipline itself to some extent and spend at a 3.5 or 3.6 level...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and maybe put 20 to 30 million dollars into a Reserve Fund, which still would not make our Reserve Fund large by anybody's calculation, if you wanted to spend at that 3.5 or 3.6 level you cannot proceed with A bills that are \$9 million at a shot. If you wanted to spend at a 3.5 or 3.6 level, remember, you have about \$15 million in A bills total that you can spend. If...this one alone will be 9 million out of that 15 million. Now think of all of the other A bills and things that are on the priority bill list and things we would like to do. Somehow, we have to start winning those...winnowing those things down. Otherwise, we'll be caught on Final Reading with bills that will require amending on Final Reading, and that's very difficult,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in order to meet any sort of ordered budget.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. For discussion on part one of the divided committee amendment (FA53), Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm going to listen carefully to the debate on this, but what I wanted to rise, and I know it's getting old about what I'm saying and Chris started out on this, there absolutely is not room in the budget for all the things we want to do, and that's no surprise. I...but I will say even the Appropriations Committee has gotten surprised in the last week for requests for additional money that we were not aware of the degree or the depth of the problems having to do with some salaries and some specific issues. You do have Judiciary bills on the floor here