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is still I think the tax that most of us hear about. Whether we represent districts in the western part of Nebraska or we represent districts...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...in the eastern part of Nebraska, that's still a tax that we hear the most about and that is still the tax that seems to be the most difficult for us to control and to keep at levels that are acceptable to our constituents. The bill, as presented to you by the Appropriations Committee, is an attempt to do that again for this next tax year. But, again, I would remind you that we're only having this discussion because state aid to K-12 schools was reduced by \$29 million and taxes in those political subdivisions will go up as a result.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. On the Chambers amendment, Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature. Senator Wickersham asked for an explanation of the deficits. That can certainly be done. We spent many, many hours in the Appropriations Committee examining those. This proposal has drawn criticism from the Governor, as all of you know who read the newspapers, and I'm sure all of you do. He was critical of the fact that this reduces the tax credit from \$35 million to \$25 million. And to question as why, and no answer is probably perfect, but I would refer all of you to page 11 of the yellow booklet. You will notice that five of the top ten adjustments result from Health and Human Services. A total of \$63,110,000 in those adjustments are deficits required by Health and Human Services, \$63 million out of \$81 million of the whole page. We spent many hours examining this and the officials of Health and Human Services were very candid and very forthright and very convincing as to the necessity for this, and the committee was convinced that these deficits had to be funded and they are in this bill. Now, assuming that or knowing that to be the truth, we were left with only between three and four million dollars for A bills and, as Senator Beutler has pointed out, all of the A bills, which include I think a lot of projections into the future and hopeful thoughts, come to over \$40 million. Clearly, \$4 million would not have met the needed