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university could find the \$2 million we didn't give them?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: They probably would, yes.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Senator Wehrbein, is it your judgment that, if we didn't appropriate the \$6 million, that they also would cover that rather than fail in their commitment to their employees?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, they certainly have an obligation to their employees and their health insurance coverage. So, yes, they would have to do that.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: And if they could cover the \$6 million, in your judgment, did they ever need the \$8.5 million specifically to solve this problem?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, one of the reasons we only gave \$3 million the second year, which is \$2.5 million short, is we wanted to be assured that they really needed it. So we had some...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...skepticism on the \$2.5 million. We can't speak to that, but there is a study that they are going over their system and their...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein, Senator Brashear. Further debate on the committee amendments to LB 1217? Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Wehrbein, I don't plan to offer amendments today, but I want to highlight a couple of problems that I guess, and I think some of them are philosophic, and I would hope that the groups would look or listen to this. The first one I have, obviously for me, long-term is the takeover of the assessor's office, a policy that we put in place. Could...at some point in time, I'm not going to yield you my time right now, but I'd like you to, at some point in time in this discussion, talk about the committee's attitude towards the