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no...would no longer be a temporary one-year increase, but this part of the committee amendment would put that into LB 759. And I certainly hope that you will all support that because, in fact, we would have an even larger hole if this goes away. Now we can also have discussion over whether in fact as a group you want to look at increasing that, as the Governor has proposed. The Revenue Committee did not lean in that direction, but we can certainly have that discussion. However, I just want you to bring...bring back to you, this is the only vehicle that we currently have on the floor that we can protect the increase that was put into our budget last year with a 30-cent increase. So if for no other reason, LB 759 should survive with this portion. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is the sixty-seventh (sic) day of our Legislature. We have spent the prior sixty-six (sic) days talking about things that are very important primarily to certain segments of our state. Now we're talking about something that's important to every resident of our state, and that is the way in which we finance our state operations. Your Appropriations Committee has been meeting for three and a half months, going through the various needs of the people of our state. And, as has been said earlier, we're not talking about the state itself. We're talking about the people of this state. We're talking about services that our people need. We're talking about basic needs of the state. So I'm very pleased that Senator Brashear has brought this proposal to us. I've received a number of letters from people saying why don't we just live within our means like everybody else has to? That's what we do in our own home--live within our means. We establish the means for the state of Nebraska by what we put out in the form of revenue proposals. That's how we determine what our means are to do the various things that we need. And I believe that we have been woefully behind in how we have approached our revenue picture. We have, as you know, during the past 18 months had to meet several times to keep cutting away, cutting away services to the people of the state of Nebraska in order to meet our financial means. The