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for Nebraska and for the integrity of the Legislature, and vote yes on this budget bill. And I took exception to that. I have no quarrel with Senator Chambers or anyone else who believes that that is the best course of action. I take exception to the suggestion that therefore it's irresponsible to choose the other course of action. I had an idea on what I thought we should do in our budget crisis, which was to reduce the funding of state aid to zero in the second year of the next budget, and use the intervening year to figure out what to do next, create the new system to take over when the status quo would end. I presented this idea to the Chairmen of the Appropriations Committee, the Revenue Committee, and the Education Committee a week before the Appropriations Committee released its budget, April 25. I presented the idea to the body as an amendment to the budget bill on General File, first crack that I had at it. It was rejected. I can live with that. I was a little prickly, you may have noticed, in the discussion about closing the prison. I was...the gist of the opposition to my amendment was, well, we can't do something like this without a public hearing, without discussing it first and sending it through regular channels. Then, a week later, we shut down a prison using exactly the same formula that I had proposed before on state aid. So when you talk about integrity of the Legislature, it's a flexible concept. But the larger issue, I think, is that we're...the reason I...the main reason I voted against the budget bill is, we've forwarded a budget bill that I think ignores our fundamental budget problem, which is the growth of state aid. Now, I've heard nothing from the Governor to address this fundamental problem either. So I don't want anybody to think that I'm carrying water for the Governor or anybody else. I'm speaking for myself as a state senator, as a member of this Legislature. The budget we've approved doesn't address our fundamental problem. And we're going to break a big promise on taxes to do it. If you think voting yes on the budget bill and on this bill is best for Nebraska and for the integrity of the Legislature, I respect that. I just ask that you please understand and respect that I am voting no for exactly the same reasons. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Chambers, on the Maxwell motion. He waives off. Senator Stuthman.