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state budget is such that it needs to have room and we have to some across-the-board cuts or we have to cut from a lot of different places, they ought to be able to make up that difference. It's not particularly fair to them, but they ought to be able to make up that difference for a one-time exception to their levy if they...if they are at the maximum levy. That's not in this amendment yet. That's what must follow. That's got to be the second part. But there's no reason to do that if you don't buy the first part. Now I look across the...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...the Legislature this morning. A number of you have never been in a budget cutting session, a true where it is hard to cut budgets. It is a feeding frenzy. Everybody comes to you about why they shouldn't be cut and how terrible it is to cut, and most of them have very good stories. Cutting budgets, when you have to, are very painful to do. When you have a very well-organized and you have this much money on the table, you will never ever in a special session be able to change the statute and make the cut at that time. Now what does it do practically? Well, it makes K-12 education participate in the legislative process from February until we adjourn. It's not on autopilot, because once they get to February their problems are over. That's not an unreasonable burden. Does it set up institutional fights? No, I don't think so, because we really are going to only do these things and should only do these things in bad economic times.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Matzke would like to announce the following guest is visiting the Legislature: seated under the north balcony, Dorothy Elias of Omaha. And Senator Robak would like to announce that Dee Kucera from Columbus is here, believe under the south balcony. If you would rise, we'd certainly like to welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wickersham would move to amend the Kristensen amendment. (AM0728 is found on pages 883-886 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to