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LB 138

be funded and some of the things we are talking about: funds for the state colleges, salary increases to try and make their salaries competitive with other state colleges in the regions; university salaries, particularly in the area of agriculture; aid to the counties in the area of mental retardation; aid to the counties in regions of the area of mental health; some of the funding for the pre-school education program that we decided yesterday we must have in this state; aid to our state community colleges. Now these are some of the things that we felt that if...

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR FOWLER: ...Medicaid was picked up, we could not fund without going over 7%. Now if this Legislature wants to do that then that is fine but I have not seen anyone standing up here and saying that we should have the 10 and 11 and 12% increase in state budget that is necessary every year for the next four years for us to meet state obligations, provide reasonable salary increases, not even inflationary salary increases for state employees, continue the aid programs that we are now providing to counties, to the community colleges and so on and meet this Medicaid payment. If we reject Senator Lewis' amendment, this Legislature is saying...

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR FOWLER: ...that the state budget must increase 12% every year for the next four years. I think we might as well pay that cost now.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Wesely, you will be next but if you would let me introduce some groups that are present, please. Senator Simon has some guests, fifty-two fourth grade students from Norris School, Millard, Nebraska. Rosemary is their teacher. Rosemary, I apologize. I cannot pronounce your name but Teri Holmquist and they are in the North balcony. Senator Simon also has some more guests, twenty-six fourth grade students from Norris Elementary School in Millard, Nebraska, Rita Donahoo, Jed Johnston, teachers in the South balcony. Would you welcome them, please? From Senator Newell's district, Doctor Robert Wolff, Ph. D. in education from Omaha Central High School here for creative problem solving. Where are you, Dr. Wolff? Under the South balcony. Would you stand and