

education system to serve us because I think we've probably got a fairly sleek system at the moment and I can tell you that the 3 percent cut would deeply endanger some of the institutions out there. I think we will see high caliber people leaving and our students in this state frankly deserve better than that. And I think 2 percent, although it is not perfect, I think it's a damage control measure, if you will, and it gives us some time to plan and some time to turn around and see how we can better support higher education in the future. So I would urge you to go with the committee's recommendation, do as little damage as we can to higher education and immediately start planning for what are we going to do to strengthen that very important resource for the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. May I introduce some guests of Senator Hall in the north balcony, 18 students in the fourth grade from the Catholic Southeast in Omaha and their teacher and principal and, are you still here? They have left, but anyway I should have announced it earlier but didn't even get it in time. We're glad to have had them with us this year. Senator DeCamp. Senator Beutler. Senator Wesely. Senator DeCamp, I'll start over.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members, a number of us did just talk to the Governor and had a, I think, a very frank and communicative session. Senator Beutler wanted me to relay essentially what I interpreted it and Senator Beutler is there to make any corrections. My impression was that the Governor said, I offered you a package of \$28 million roughly in revenue measures and cuts, and you give me \$28 million in revenues or cuts or I'll get there through vetoes. In other words, I have the distinct impression that if we aren't there, and I can't see how we would be short of "the income tax increase" which I need to support and I think is realistic at this point and, therefore, I have the impression that 2 percent would be vetoed down to 3 percent and I wonder if it's, I guess I wonder if it's wise or productive to even do it then. I think, I guess I think the decision has been made at 3 percent and that's pretty well been decided by the Revenue Committee when they moved it to this stage, maybe, and it just comes out one way or the other and I wonder whether it's wise to get into the old game of we do something, we have the veto, most of the main elements of the session are lost and the whole game becomes in the newspaper, who is a