

with indigent health care. We did, in fact, go to the Appropriations Committee after it got through Select File so that it can, in fact, be hopefully part of the process. What is interesting about it is, though, we don't know. Most of us, in fact all of us, except those on the Appropriations Committee, and even right now even the Appropriations Committee don't really know how it is all going to come out. But if we have to wait and take our chances three or four days before the session ends or a couple of weeks, whatever it might be, we will be ill-equipped and very, unfortunately not very well prepared to argue or debate regarding the priorities that may be recommended by the committee. So for that reason, you see, only for that reason, I support this legislation, and I have heard the philosophical, and religious, and moral arguments about who is going to be the lesser of the brothers and receive the lesser of the money, but this is one of those appropriations processes where we should have on the floor the chance to consider the priorities. Not the priorities that have traditionally exist, not protecting the status quo, and increasing those budgets that are, in fact, the status quo to meet expanding needs, but, hopefully, someday to begin on a level playing field where we don't exercise these poor folks to come to our Standing Committees with their wishes and their hopes and their dreams knowing full well...without knowing full well that they probably will never have a chance to be seriously considered, unless, of course, they were a part of the appropriations process. So you see, this is just one of those examples with this legislation that justifies my supporting pulling the committee (sic) to the floor notwithstanding the actions of the committee because the committee, at the present time, can't tell us what their priorities are. Most of us can't either. But for this kind of a priority and this kind of a need to have a fair shake, at least as fair a shake as is possible, I think it is important for us to pull this legislation to the floor for consideration.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, followed by Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and colleagues, I step up to this microphone today with a heavy heart. My heart is heavy because there is great sadness in the towns and villages throughout the land of MIF. The Smirfs, as the supporters of MIF are called, are very sad because they have no cabbage. Years ago, they were able to raise much of their own cabbage, but over the years, the great council decreed that most of the