

trouble. A lot of the other things in terms of ongoing aid programs, they just keep accelerating and they keep increasing and you have to continue to do them. And so my yes votes always come a lot harder on some of those issues. And I think it's prudent to maintain our buildings and our facilities in this state. It is equally prudent to do human service programs and you try to strike some kind of decent balance. But, over the years, we have been unable, frankly, to do a lot of things that are in the best interests of this state and to spread that money out. So it's always a matter of picking and choosing. I guess I'm just saying I appreciate your frustrations but a lot of these issues...the other thing that I think is important to weigh is when you talk about if I'm going to try to build a budget that's sustainable, I'm going to try to avoid a tax increase, then how do I allocate out money in those areas of things that will not cause me long term problems and those things that tend to grow. The other question about what do you do if if you do across the board cuts? Some of those entitlement programs we simply can't do. You can't cut across the board, as you know, on ADC. You can't cut across on Medicaid. Those are huge pieces of our budget. You typically cannot cut across the board on salaries which is about 80 percent of most any government operation regardless of what it is. So what you try you do, then we end up doing when you do that across the board cuts is you go after those things that can be gotten. You always end up hurting local governments when you do that because state aid to local governments is something you can cut. But instead you don't do a 1 percent or a 2 percent across the board because of those big pieces of the budget that are off limits. If you're going to maintain that rule of doing a set percentage across the board, then you end up making 7, 8 and 9 percent cut over here to balance off those areas that are off limits. So those are some of the difficulties and some of the frustrations of trying to apply that across-the-board issue. You wanted to speak. Go ahead, Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. President...

PRESIDENT: Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. President, so you don't take my comments wrong, I was not being critical of the Appropriations Committee. I don't understand how they do it in 70 days. But I wanted to relate that we have to digest it boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. I don't know how they do it. I would hate to be on the