

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I guess no one can accuse me of being a fiscal conservative this year because I have voted for practically all of the amendments. However, even I, as spending happy as I have been this year, have recognized that the time comes to say no and I did not support the Kristensen amendment when it was offered this morning and I have equally voted to take that \$18 million out of the budget. I would like to do what the schools would like us to do and provide them the funds but in order to do that I think it's very evident that something else will have to give. At this late date in the session, it appears very unlikely that we'll go back in and strike \$18 million. So I think I am planning on voting against the advancement of the bill, primarily because I just feel that reality tells us we can't spend the money. It's just not there. We have spent it all, at least a fairly healthy share, and I have helped contribute to that. I will be the first to admit that, because some of those proposals I voted on I have supported because I like those programs. But the time has come even for me to say no more. I was talking with Fred Knapp at lunch today and he asked me, who is going to be...who is going to end up getting blamed for the spending that's going on in this Legislature? Is it going to be the Legislature or is it going to be the Governor when these item line vetoes come down? And I said, well, it depends on one's perspective but I assume that the Legislature will have to assume a fairly healthy share of the blame for the decisions that we have made because we're the ones putting them in the budget. And I would suggest that all of us take a moment and consider the reality of the situation and the fact is \$18 million will not fit in this budget unless you want to take something else out and it doesn't appear that we want to do that either. So, at this particular point, until the 18 million is taken out of this bill, I can't support its advancement.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, would you care to discuss the advancement? Followed by Senators Abboud, Withem and Ashford.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Chambers expresses his love for children frequently on this floor and he demonstrates his love for his colleagues because he frequently treats us like children and we frequently invite that kind of treatment by the way we act and react on this floor. I'm always amazed at how we can spend the billions of dollars and then 18 million is the budget