

expertise, we are going to get input from the outside, but we are going to use our expertise, our values, and we are going to make some tough decisions. That has fallen apart in the last week and it was just thrown totally out the window this morning when we, and admittedly I am one of them and I feel as badly, I guess, about that fact that I made a dishonest vote this morning to put this money into the budget when I knew it wasn't there, I knew it wasn't there, we threw that out the window, and we have said it is politics as usual. If you get the phone calls from home, if you get the people coming down, you can do a rally out in the Rotunda and out on the steps, and say give us the money, then we give it to them even though we know it is not there, that we will get away with that. It is not the way to legislate. It is not the proper procedures to follow, and I would urge you not to let it happen. What this amendment does, basically, doesn't quite strip all of the Kristensen amendment but it strips most of it. It takes out \$17 million of the \$18 million that has been appropriated, and I would urge you to vote in favor of it. If Senator Bernard-Stevens would like to use a moment or two, I would be happy to let him use it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. It has been quite a learning experience. This is my second year here and you learn something different each time. And, of course, each session has a different flavor and a different tone, and things happen differently, but one of the things that I have picked up this year, particularly from my conservative Republican friends, is a new definition of fiscal conservatives. You know, and I guess the definition of fiscal conservative is that we are going to take gambles, spend 36 million we don't have, and we are going to take a gamble that maybe on another bill that we don't like we will try to get it over there when there is no guarantees of that. Pretty risky, my conservative friends, pretty risky, and I might also add, it is not very responsible and it is not true to a philosophy that I have been hammered at for being not very loyal to. But I am learning. The body is a conservative body, I have been told, and yet this morning we did a couple of things. We said we are not going to put 40 million away because we need that, and then we are going to turn around and come right back and the same body is going to say but we can go ahead and spend another 36 million that we don't know where it is going to be. We think we might be able to find another way, maybe, but we haven't been