

put in place can they show a diminution in the commission of crimes. It's gadgetry, it is a toy, a very expensive toy and for once I have to applaud the Budget Committee which generally is composed of collective grinchies, scrooges and what nots, but this is one time they were very perceptive, very savvy and by cutting this money they have not done anything to harm law enforcement, valid, legitimate law enforcement at all.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Before recognizing Senator Moore, Senator Rod Johnson has some guests in our south balcony, Dave Barrett and Al Meyer with 26 students from Sandy Creek High School. Would you folks please stand and be recognized? Thank you. It's a pleasure to have you with us this afternoon. Senator Moore, followed by Senators Scofield, Bernard-Stevens and Schellpeper. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm almost at a loss for words today. First we had Senator Lynch complimenting us and now we have Senator Chambers complimenting us. Something is in the air I guess, but I rise to oppose Senator Goodrich's amendment to include the AFIS program in our budget. And not because, as so often is the case, I mean, not because I'm opposed to AFIS, I happen to think it's a good program. But it's just one of those things for me personally is, what do you do in an off budget year? What constitutes priorities? What constitutes emergencies? What constitutes spending a million dollars on something when there is so many other things out there to do? And as far as the State Patrol and the whole area of crime fighting, you know, for me, for one at least, I think the whole issue of overtime pay and the issue of getting more patrolmen out on the street and trying to do a better job of enforcing our laws is probably more of a priority and more of an emergency. Now the AFIS system is a good idea, but my concern, quite simply, is that this is one of those things that we all get whipped up into a fury and what is the right thing to do politically? What is the right thing to do as far as fighting crime? In this particular year, what is the popular thing to do on fighting the war on drugs? And the AFIS thing is all of those things, quite honestly. But I think we as a Legislature can't lose sight of, we have to set priorities. Here is something that has jettisoned relatively out of nowhere into a very high priority and I guess in...when you're building a biennial budget that will be the proper time to put a purchase like this in. But my objection to AFIS is the fact of the timing of it. I think it's one of those things that we should