

purpose, because the sole selling point he had, before our committee at least, was to give us this money to do the performance audits. I think that is a whole other issue, another policy decision which should be made on its own. For those three reasons, I rise to oppose Senator Hall's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Before I proceed to the next speakers, I would like to introduce a couple of guests of the Legislature. First of all, a guest of Senator Lindsay, we have his brother, Mike Lindsay, from Minneapolis, Minnesota. And Mike is under the north balcony. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature, Mike. Thank you for being with us. And also a special guest of Senator Lowell Johnson, we have his son, Kent Johnson, from Laguna Niguel, Newport Beach, California. Mr. Johnson, would you stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you both for being with us. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to oppose the Hall amendment, not because it doesn't necessarily have merit, but for a couple of other reasons. Number one, one of the difficult things of the Appropriations Committee was in all agencies, in all departments, whether it be a code agency or not, was to...there was always a request for an update on computers; in some cases it was simply to get their first computer; other cases they had the computer, they'd like to get the software to go with it; other cases they had a computer and software, but they needed training to go. And all of them were for an increase of efficiency and so we could do a better job within those different agencies and departments. The problem was the Appropriations Committee and the Legislature, now on Select File, on LB 843, could not afford and cannot afford, at this point, to fund all of those. And the Appropriations Committee simply had to say, where do we draw the line? And, in essence, in the two percent across the board cut, one of the things the Appropriations Committee says is, yes, it would be nice to have some of these things. We can become more efficient, but the choice is do we want to become a little bit more efficient in the computer area right now and put that money in, or do we want to go back and, after putting the money in, and cut elsewhere. The elsewhere that had to be cut, quite honestly, was much more important than, at this point, the computers. That's number one. Number two is, hopefully, in the next year, when we come back in the second half of the biennium, the budget will look a little better. One of the things that