

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...so the balance of that \$2.5 billion, about \$900 million is spent on operations and aid to individuals, the other 1.7...1.6, \$1.7 billion is spent on the local level. And so when people talk about cutting back on government expenditures, I'm not here to say that the local government wastes more money than the state government or anything like that. I think it's imperative to understand that the reason you can't solve a \$100 million problem just by cutting state government is that, you know, you're basically talking a 13, 14 percent across-the-board percentage cut to make \$100 million fit there. And I think it's, just while I have the microphone, next year if you listen to the Governor's numbers, you're going to be talking about a \$75 million problem gap to solve, \$21 million gap to solve, if you want to talk in appropriations numbers, it probably may be somewhere in between. But as far as cutting (inaudible), I think Senator Dierks' amendment is very illuminating, if you want to cut that amount out of the state budget, the cuts that Senator Dierks' has talked about in his amendment...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR MOORE: ...is the extent that you're going to have to go.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Madam President and members, I rise to support Senator Dierks and I guess Senator Schmit's amendment but I think it's worth some good discussion and if you people in your district haven't been telling you over the last number of years one of the biggest things you're doing is to cut spending. I hear it constantly. You talk about something like this happening, it would make 80, 90 percent of the people in this great state the happiest people tonight if this could happen, because our budget has grown almost double in what, six, seven, last six, seven years, and continues to grow. Look at the...look around, if you haven't seen some of the figures and some of the articles in the...I take a paper that lists a lot of states and the amount of cutting that's being done, about every state except a very, very few are making cuts and some of them pretty drastically. And I think it's about time, and, of