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budgets. Why is it that so many of you are so afraid to cut into this area of the budget? Why must we isolate our damage to the area of state operations and not touch the local subdivisions of government? That is inappropriate. It's not fair, and I think those of us that care about state government in general have a feeling that we're very biased in our view about what is important and what isn't important in terms of the function of state government. The function of state government is not to be a pass-through agency that takes taxes and sends them back to local subdivisions. We have a different role than that. We do some of that, but it seems like that function has a higher priority than other functions in state government, and I think it's an inappropriate high priority. Our priorities should be delivering services and programs and assistance, the education of our children, educations or higher education institutions, our social service programs. All of those things are primary functions of the state. The aid side of state government in my view is not the highest priority for state government, yet the arguments that I'm hearing on the floor seem to elevate it to that level, and so again I indicate to you it's not fair to support the Schellpeper amendment and reduce the impact of the budget cuts to our municipalities. The fair thing to do is to go with the bill as advanced by the Appropriations Committee, and even then that's less than what should be cut from local aid. Oh, I give the rest of my time to Senator Nelson.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we just came from a 309 Task Force Building and Maintenance Committee and I think this reassures what I said this morning. We have many state buildings and roofs, and I can go down the list, boilers and so on that we're not able to fix. The longer we let it go the more cost and the more repair. So I mean I can see that county government is depending on this, and we are also depending on some money and funding for our own state buildings. We're \$14 million in repairs that we absolutely need to do. And I guess it was the comment today, now they've taken into consideration not only the deterioration of that roof but what's underneath that roof, and so it is a serious situation. I know that some of the cities have used this money very wisely. Others have had to think of projects probably to use it for. So I guess that when it comes time for the cuts, as Senator Moore said this morning, they have received increases from gas tax. A