

if business goes down, if you have a business and it goes down, you have to cut back. We can't continually keep feeding the system. I think they have to find ways to control their spending and watch what...what programs they offer, maybe scrutinize a little bit on the programs, and I think we're trying to do that. This amendment does earmark the Engineering College so we...the one thing that was earmarked...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR AVERY: ...that the fiscal office had also earmarked in terms of utilities. So that's covered. But in terms of many other...some of the other programs, they aren't earmarked and the university will be able to spend the dollars as they see fit. So I would ask for your consideration on this and, again, any questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Avery. Senator Witek, on the Avery amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I would like to thank Senator Avery for bringing this bill in. And I will support him on this for the simple reason that we are putting together a budget here that obviously spends three hundred and some million dollars more in the next two years than we've spent. We have people begging us to cut their taxes and they're not just saying property taxes, they're saying all kinds of taxes. You have senators standing up and saying, oh, we can't cut this. And I know what's going to happen. Everybody who proposes an amendment to cut, someone is going to stand up and say, you can't cut that, and we're going to end up not cutting anything. Not only are we not going to cut the budget that's been given to us, from my short past experience, but we have somewhere in the area of \$51 million in appropriations sitting here on the floor. So, to me, it's like, okay, fine, if you're going to stand up and say don't cut the university budget or don't cut whatever anybody actually gets up the nerve to come in here with a bill to cut the budget, then tell me how you're going to save money? Are you going to do away with your million dollar bills or your half a million dollar bills? Are you going to vote to cut them and get rid of them? Is that how you're going to get rid of this money? Somebody has got to come in, as Senator Avery has, with some suggestions. And he's right, it's a point to start the discussion. I know the Appropriations Committee has worked very hard to bring in this budget and I'm