

sure they've had some of the same discussions in the Appropriations Committee on whether to take money out of a program or fund a program fully or how to do this. But it still remains that this budget is...how are we going to...this is what I keep getting asked from my priority bill. My priority bill is the lid bill, Senator McKenzie's bill that she brought in for the Governor, and we're asking local budg...local municipalities and schools to keep their budgets within a certain range of expenditures and yet we're not going to keep our budget within that range of expenditures. So they say to me, well, don't you think it seems a little, you know, arrogant to go ahead and spend higher than you're saying that we have to spend in order to save money? And I guess right now I don't have an answer to it especially if we're not really going to look at this and even try to cut away. And everybody says, well, give it to the Governor and, you know, he can cut. I don't want to do that. I think we should do some of that here. We're willing to spend eight and sixteen hours on other bills, this is something that I hope we'll spend some time on this year actually looking at it, and I wish we all had more time with the appropriations process to get to know it better, to be able to become more involved in it than just the Appropriations Committee. I wish there was a change here in how we go about getting the budget here for the State of Nebraska, but there's not. We have this bill before us and what we're...what we have to settle for is suggestions like Senator Avery is giving us to cut into the budget. I hope there will be more suggestions. I think we should be looking at these and not just saying out of hand we're not going to vote for this or we're not going to consider this because what's going to happen is we're not going to cut anything and we're going to end up with a budget that's 360 some million dollars over the next two years, in addition to the cost...we're almost hitting \$2 billion a year here to run the State of Nebraska. I look at what Senator Schrock put out on the floor here. I don't know if you've all taken a look at that when Nebraska had almost no taxes. They used...over 50 percent of their tax money came from fuel, motor vehicle taxes. So, to me, we have come so far from that in not even 50 years and we do...we talk about cutting spending when we're out there in our districts and now is the time to not only talk the talk but to walk the walk. And I hope people, instead of just saying that out of hand that we're not going to vote for something like this, get up and suggest something that you are willing to cut then.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.