

Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Hall and members of the body. I rise, first of all, in disappointment on the last vote. It's very discouraging, you know, to have an amendment such as I had earlier, for \$25,000 for developmental disabilities, fall a couple of votes short, but to have everybody say how much we've got to hold the line on the budget, we've got to do something, and then all of a sudden not only do we not take off the table \$6 million for a new program, of which we already have millions going out there for development on various programs anyway, but I was so discouraged on how many senators did not even have the interest to be here to vote, or were on the floor and didn't vote, or simply were excused. And there comes a time when senators need to look at their responsibility and say, it's time to be in the body, it's time to put our vote where our responsibilities are, and that is representative of the constituency. Whenever you have a big bill that's being pushed by the administration, or whatever the case may be, or any other interest group and you only have 40 senators here, it makes it pretty tough. So I would hope that if any of those...my colleagues who are, for some reason, off doing whatever, even if it's a meeting of some sort, that they may at least have the courtesy, that when we come to a big policy decision, to break away from what they're doing, I'm sure it's important, but to come at least to cast a vote. It gets very discouraging. I don't feel at this point that I want to let 425 even come to a vote. And I'll be offering amendments that will be substantive amendments, I won't offer anything that's going to be dilatory. But we're going to go ahead and break this bill down then to all those technical areas. And then later on I've got a kill motion that we'll get to. I think Senator Engel should have jumped at it, I think he made a mistake. He had a chance of getting this bill, all of his bill next year. He had a chance of rallying the forces, looking at the budget, looking at the fiscal notes, having the Governor come back with new initiatives, finding the monies and having it all. And he's going to end up with zip. And finally at the last minute they came and they said, well, we'll cut it down to 3.5 million. That doesn't help us any, Senator Engel. You cut it down to 3.5 million, which would be, what, 50 percent.. or 3 million, which would be 50 percent of it. That doesn't help us any. All that means is that we'll spend \$3 million on a new program and then we're going to have to cut other things. And I'll guarantee you, Senator Engel, I challenge you to argue