

think you're going to have difficulties. Third point I would make, Senator Wesely was reminding me, I can remember the first legislative career of Senator Beutler, when I was a new, fresh senator here and Senator Beutler had been around a few years, a number of us decided we wanted to do this, that the Appropriations Committee had not given us as mean and lean a budget as we should have had, so we held the line. We forced the Appropriations Committee back to make the cuts, we were successful, we certainly didn't like the results of that. My guess is what Senator Wehrbein was indicating here is you're probably not going to like the results of what they come back with if they do that. Fourth point I would make is the Appropriations Committee has now had 70 days, as Senator Wehrbein said, to make its decisions. I probably don't agree with all of them. There are probably a number of things in that budget bill I'd like to see done differently. But they've had 70 days to work on it. Now the process is for us to offer our amendments here on the floor to change it. Looking at the amendments filed this morning I didn't see too many of those people that are filing this motion have any amendments up there to make any significant cuts in the budget. That's the process we ought to be going by. I've heard, for instance, that the university is treated too generously in the budget. Well put an amendment up there to strike money out of the university.

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I might consider it, I don't know. But that's the process we ought to be going through. I don't know...I would also point out, and I think I won't steal Senator Bernard-Stevens' language because I know that he's been doing a little research on this. But I'd just make a general comment, the irony of yesterday, having \$6 million of the Governor's spending right in front of us with the opportunity to bracket that and take \$6 million off of the table, and we didn't do that. As a matter of fact you'll find, I think, Senator Bernard-Stevens speaks that a vast majority of the people that are signing this motion, when they had an opportunity to save \$6 million yesterday, chose not to do that. The responsible process is to get this bill moving, put up your amendments now today, we can stay as long as you want to today, we'll consider cuts here on the floor, that's the process we ought to be using, not the process of bracketing. I will not be voting in favor of the bracket motion.