

the budget. I looked at the green sheet that's been on our desk here for a number of days, and looking at the projected reserve, assuming we pass all the bills on Final Reading, we are going to be below what we should be at. Now there is disagreement as to how to go about making that reserve, that 3 percent, and one approach that has been proposed here is we knock off some of the bills that are on Final Reading or on Select File, kill the bills, or send them over till next year. Another approach was to just cut the funding out of the state budget, Senator Avery had that approach, \$25 million, I believe, left the university and state colleges with about a 3 percent increase. I supported that motion, as did 16 other members on this floor. I don't know if that is the best approach. When you talk about doing across-the-board cuts, in the past the Appropriations Committee has usually opposed that because they said you have to study it, you have to refine that budget, and I can understand their belief. I served on the committee for two years, and I know the great amount of work and effort that that committee goes through to formulate a budget each year, and so I weighed the approach of either making across-the-board cuts, passing the budget with the A bills, in addition to that, the bills that are on Final Reading and Select File, and letting the Governor veto and rewrite the entire budget for us, or just sending it back to the committee and having them work on it. You know, maybe, maybe...I thought I was doing the committee a service. I thought I was doing the body a service by bringing this motion up, but people have different...different opinion on that, and I'm willing, and I don't know if Senator Robinson received the same sort of reaction, but I know he is probably a little discouraged by the reaction from the committee, and maybe the best approach is just to withdraw the motion, and let's just plunge ahead with...I know Senator Avery has another opportunity here, he is going to try and cut 20 million out of the budget, and I will be voting for that, and maybe that's the best approach. I believe in some of the A bills that are up there. I support Senator Engel's bill on economic development. I know it is an expensive piece of legislation, but I feel it's important. I even supported the little, small, small, small appropriation, I believe it was \$25,000 of Senator Bernard-Stevens because he made a compelling argument for the advocacy of North Platte. You know I listen to people's arguments when they come here, I supported the ethanol project. I feel that's a very worthwhile project. I also realize that in the end we are going to have to balance our budget, and we can either allow...it is going to be balanced one way or another.