

flexible fund that can be spent who knows how, I'll bet it's been spent a hundred different ways in the past. I'll bet nobody can put a pattern to how this money has been spent. If they could, I think they would have done it by now in this discussion. So I...I'm asking you to make this decision. Let's do it on the floor. Let's control the budget here rather than let it go to the Governor,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ...knowing that it's gone anyway. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I think this would be a very unwise cut and let me simply give you my reasons why. First of all, as I've watched the university system and higher education over the years, quite clearly, what's happened during the 1980s and the early 1990s is that we've put huge amounts of what we call education funds into the research function. We have funded for business, for some very practical reasons also. It's a public good too, but the fact of the matter is huge amounts of money have been put into research. Huge amounts of faculty energy has been put into research and the price that we've paid for that is the degradation of undergraduate education. If you look at professor-student ratios, the number of hours that professors spend in the classroom versus doing research, especially in certain areas, there...I don't think you can come to any other conclusion other than undergraduate education, the education for the kids has not been helped at all in recent years by developments. And we've come to a point in time where we're trying to restore what should have been in terms of the quality of education in the university system. But now, in the face of making that effort on behalf of the kids, we're going to take away vacancy savings. Those are the savings, as has been pointed out, that goes into faculty salaries, that goes into quickly getting someone to replace a professor when one is gone. We all know it takes a while to replace professionals. It's not the same as replacing clerical help. And one might say, well, we shouldn't budget this way. This is not the way we should budget. Maybe it's not, but, historically, vacancy savings have always gone back to the higher education systems. And if, all of a sudden, one day you're going to change it, well, that's fine but that's not very fair and that doesn't. .and it's not fair in the sense, in the