

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah, I have it down at 2.9 percent. I guess the point I want to make is that any time that we spend more than 2.9 percent, I don't care what governmental budget it is, you know what we're doing. We're increasing government, whether we like it or not, we are increasing government. We've done it in state government. We've doubled the number of employees the last 10 years, we've doubled the budget and some day it will come home to roost. Comes that way about every year. Senator Bernard-Stevens talks about maintenance, going back to the university. You don't think subdivisions have maintenance to take care of? They have their special projects to take care of too. And you can talk about the scenario of Governor Nelson, now some people, I believe that we ought to get...because of the lid on state or on the subdivisions, we ought to cut that down to make it close to what they're going to be forced to spend. But you know it and I know it, when that budget goes up to the corner there's going to be a big swath of red ink. We all know it. And everyone, you know, you've got your pets and I look at certain senators and I sort of smile and they got their pets and we're going to get them all in there and hopefully, you know, the red ink will miss a couple of their favorite projects. But...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR ROBINSON: ...it's going to come and we know it. I think a lot of us just want the Governor to look good and, believe me, he is going to look good because he's going to...because I know it, we're not going to take money out of the university. I don't know how many lobbyists they got out here today but they've got a lot of them. We know we're not going to do it but other subdivisions don't know how they're going to do it either because we're forcing a cut on those people. I think we should cut the budget. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, one thing I agree with Senator Robinson is I think that everybody has a right to get up and express their opinion on this floor, that's why we're here. And to say that somebody doesn't have a right to express their opinion certainly doesn't go well with me. But be that as it may, and I don't intend to get up and challenge the Appropriations Committee's ideas, I just have one question that I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein.