

point that out. It has cost not only in schools but it's also cost, as Senator Wehrbein just pointed out, within our state budget itself. If we don't make cuts now, we haven't made any cuts yet any...does everybody know that? I mean, is everybody aware that we haven't made any cuts to this budget yet? We go out into our individual communities and we tell people we need to make cuts, we need to hold the line on taxes, we've got to do something about property taxes and we sound so rhetorical and so political when we do that and then people turn and they see us here as we're not cutting anything. And then you wonder why people are apathetic or why they're cynical about the political process, because we are doing exactly what they think that we'll do and we're raising the budget again. We're not cutting any...this isn't even trying to cut the budget. All this is trying to do is freeze it at a '94-95 level. There will always be more areas to spend money on, always, it will always happen. There will always be people who want money. They will always be able to justify and tell us what a good cause it is. That's not going to be able to happen because we are reaching the area within the public in the entire United States and definitely here in the State of Nebraska where the taxpayers of this state can no longer afford what all of you want. And if you want it and if individuals within your community want it, they're going to have to support it within their community. Maybe they're going to have to use a little sweat equity in some of these areas that don't turn to the government to ask for more funds. But we're going to have to start cutting. We're out of time. We're out of time now. We're on the eighty-first day. The budget was supposed to be in yesterday. We're already over time. We're running on borrowed time right now and we still haven't made any cuts to this budget. I understand that the Appropriations Committee is sticking together and not making any cuts because they've gone through some negotiations within the committee, but where are the other senators on helping with some of these ideas on what we can look at, what we can freeze, what we can...what we...I mean, we're not cutting, let's face it. Nobody has offered to cut, myself included,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...Senator Avery included. None of us have offered to cut the budget. What we've...Senator Avery and myself have been trying to do, and a couple other people, is try to hold the spending, freeze the spending, just for the time being and maybe grow in some areas and not in others. You don't