

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, I thank you for that information. But I think another thing that people are going to look up and say, well, you increased the budget 4.6 percent. Well, we know what's going to happen on that last day, we're going to be looking at a lot of red ink in the face. And I think it would behoove us to be not very generous in overriding Governor's vetoes. And I... If it's nothing else, it's the perception that we give to the public. And I think all of us should take that into consideration as we go to that last day. And I'm not...I'm certainly not putting any blame on the Revenue...or, excuse me, the Appropriations Committee. But I think it's something that has to be said on the floor of the Legislature, because there are a lot of people out there that are asking why aren't you cutting? And I'll end with that, and I thank you very much. Senator Wehrbein, for your comment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR VRTISKA: Madam Speaker, I would like to echo some of the words that Senator Robinson just got through, because I, too, have heard on numerous occasions about why doesn't the Legislature cut back state spending. And I think Senator Wehrbein has very eloquently pointed out where some of that increase in state funds are going. The problem is, as Senator Robinson indicated, as far as I'm concerned is the perception out there. Yes, we're raising four point whatever, 3 percent. Most of the people, unfortunately, think that's all going for state funds and for state uses and all those things. And it's difficult 'cause I've gone through this. It's difficult for people to understand how much money is actually coming back to schools, and to counties, to the cities and the other operations. I appreciate the fact the Appropriations Committee struggles with this every year. All of us out in the outlying areas want those aid dollars. We've demonstrated that by all the programs we've...or all of the...yes, programs we've tried to get more assistance for, and that assistance means more tax dollars. Of course, those translate into sales and income tax, while the local dollars that we're forced to collect are from the taxpayer or the property tax owner. But I think it's interesting and I think worth noting that, yes, in truth the state has grown some if it's 3 percent. I guess the only