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sitting on the Appropriations Committee, or even in the Fiscal Office, and going by nothing but, you know, numbers and things that you get from other people, we're almost at their mercy. And I think we need to stop and take a good look at that and hopefully not have to be that much at their mercy. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Crosby, would you like to be recognized on the committee amendments?

SENATOR CROSBY: Yes, I'd like to...thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to speak once more, because Senator Pedersen said a couple of things that I should have said before. When you talk about the bureaucracy, I guess, you're talking about the agency heads. We have a tremendous number of state employees who are that bureaucracy. I always have to defend them because they work very hard to do the job that we give them through all these programs. They are the ones that carry out and offer and do the services. They are the ones on the hot lines, they're the ones who take the calls on welfare, all the service...all the caseworkers. In every department, there's caseworkers who are one-on-one with the people that are getting the aid that we give. So I always have to defend those people, because I don't like to write them off as bureaucrats who don't care about what they're doing. They do care, let me tell you. And some of them come to us, if they don't come to the hearing they come separately or call us and tell us what's going on in their own discipline, what's happening, what's happening at the Regional Center, what's happening in some of the community-based things, so we understand what the money goes for. Some of those things you go to early in the morning here are the people who are working in the business of state government and county government, and offering and working with those people that we give the services to. So I always have to defend those so-called bureaucrats, and I'd also defend our fiscal staff. And I don't know that I needed to defend them, but I don't want anyone...they do work hard, and they are highly qualified people who give us the numbers that we need, and they work with the agency one-on-one; they work with the fiscal person in the agency to bring those budgets to us and to bring the requests that they feel that they need to keep going for their continuing budgets and for anything new in new employees, or new.... And