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LB 432A

SENATOR CROSBY: I am sorry. Who originated the fiscal note?

SENATOR JANSSEN: The Fiscal Office.

SENATOR CROSBY: But at the behest of the Auditor?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Apparently.

SENATOR CROSBY: Okay, Senator Pederson, are you going to...Approp...I'm going to vote red too. Appropriations, and our Chairman, our fearless leader, isn't here today, so we have voted and, right, Senator Pederson and Senator Matzke? I am looking at you to agree with me that we have covered the State Auditor's Office and I think we have done some things that are fair to try to help things along there, right? (Laugh) Okay, they're nodding yes. So, okay, thank you. I just wanted to be sure I understood it correctly. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Right.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I rise to support Senator Janssen's request that we vote red on this bill, and I do want to ask Senator Pederson maybe to tell us a little about what the Appropriations Committee is doing for the State Auditor's Office. So if Senator Pederson just...just briefly give us some kind of an idea of what you're doing, and I don't expect exact figures, Senator.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you. Yes, Senator Schimek, we have been meeting and one of the items that we've been discussing is the State Auditor's Office, as I think everyone has seen from the newspapers and other accounts there are, obviously, some serious deficiencies in the State Auditor's financial situation. Our new State Auditor was left with the request for I think a 48 percent increase in the budget and we have been told that there are a number of employees that have left that office, and we think that it is of some considerable concern. We want to make certain that we are on the right path, however, in