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connection with alleviating the problems that we've had with the State Auditor's Office financial situation. And so we have agreed to begin to do some of the funding but not all of the funding that has been requested. We want to make a minimal amount of that funding with the recognition that if it does appear that that is not being an adequate treatment of the problem that our State Auditor can come back with a deficit request.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And I don't want anybody to misunderstand. I have a feeling that what the Appropriations Committee is doing does need to be done, and to what amount, I don't know. I hope that people re...I hope the public looks at this situation and understands that some politics were played with that office and that office has suffered as a consequence. And so it's really up to Senator Witek to try to put it back in...or not Senator Witek, Auditor Witek to put it back into shape. So I'm not against them getting more money. I am opposed to these kinds of little forays into bills where probably it is not appropriate. So I would encourage you to vote red also.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, can I ask Senator Pederson, since Senator Wehrbein isn't...you know, I think what's happening, you know, as I understand what's happened in the Auditor's Office, it was, you know, we're going to cut...we're going to cut government down and we...maybe we cut it too much. Is that...is that possible of happening in other offices that, you know, that you over...and someone new comes in, we have a new Auditor, is there any way that you, as the Appropriations, I mean I'm guessing and maybe...because I've never, you know...is there any way that you know, are the agencies being funded at a, you know, at a reasonable level? I guess that's, you know, the question is. Because I can see the problem that, you know, that the new Auditor has, is that the office was cut, you know, maybe too much in the past. Is there any way the Appropriations Committee can deal with a problem of