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LB 155

slow up, if not stop, not knowing what the future brings. I know you all are watching the stock market carefully every day. I asked this question, by the way, and had a special meeting about what if the market dropped 20 percent, which is a pretty precipitous drop? And even the 300 point drop we had yesterday is not approaching 20 percent out of 11,000. So...but they've assured me with a 20 percent precipitous drop there is adequate funding here for what they want to do. And I have some figures here that show that, and actually we're working off September 1, 1999 values; December 31st came in another...well over \$100,000 million more. Now it's probably dropped some of that value since then. I can't remember the stock market, Dow Jones, back on September 1st. But I have been assured that there is adequate reserves here, even taking off the 20 percent, which is what I...I would consider 20 percent, in my humble, humble opinion, would be a pretty drastic drop in the market, and a really psychological blow to all of us. So, I am going to...I...I am fairly comfortable going where we are, realizing that next year we're going to have to do it for everybody and that that decision will be made appropriately then, assuming we have the values, knowing full well we have no idea where the market is going and how its impact is. But I...I wasn't clear when you talked, if you were looking at lowering the collection rate for a reason rather than holding up. And I think I probably, too, would be...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...opposed to lowering the collection rate in order to keep the levels where they are at. But I would rather see it go to the stated goal of the Buck Study, which is the 2 factor.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. We are discussing the Bromm amendment, AM2549, to LB 155. Senator Wickersham. Senator Wickersham. Senator Wickersham, did you wish to speak on the Bromm amendment? Senator Wickersham waives off. Senator Kiel, on the amendment.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, a couple things, one of the concerns, I think, Senator Bromm had was contribution rate, whether or not benefits should be increased