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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Erdman spoke words of gold with a silver tongue. Senator Friend did not overly belabor the point. He was very sincere. He made his points, and I think we all understood what he said. The only thing that had me wanting to do like this was when he talked about this mystical experience he had with Senator Brashear, of all places, at the chamber of commerce? But anyway, (laughter) anyway, what the adoption of this amendment will do is help to focus our debate, our proceedings. But it will bring the public's attention. That's what I want. If there was any issue before us that I would desire to have the public pay attention to, it is how we are grappling with this money problem. They can see the figures \$300 million till it has no meaning; \$375 million, no meaning; \$60 million shortfall after everything has been done, means nothing. And they'll sit back and gripe and write to the editor, they should keep cutting; they haven't stopped cutting, they can still cut; as long as anything is spent, they can cut more. They don't even know what they're talking about. They're just saying words and writing words, with no concept of what funding the government's essential services is about. But we know. We cannot do as uninformed people will do. We cannot behave as irresponsible people would behave, and what I mean by that is not people who don't care about something, but those who are not charged with the responsibility of doing things in a certain way and reaching a certain result. What is the worst thing that can happen if we adopt Senator Quandahl's amendment? We will succeed in doing what everybody from the League of Women Voters to professors of political science have been trying unsuccessfully to do; that is, to get the public interested and paying attention to what we as the Legislature are doing. That's the worst thing that can happen. How is that bad? It is not bad. If a vote at this time was to be permanent and we could not change it no matter what happened, I would not give a vote to do what we're talking about here. That would be irresponsible, because we don't know everything that we need to know to come up with a final plan. But in working our way to that plan, or let's say we're trying to put together a puzzle, all of the pieces have to be there. If some of the pieces are left out, no matter how clever or capable we are in working puzzles, we cannot complete it, because what is needed as essential elements have been taken