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FLOOR DEBATE

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SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Quandahl introduced this whole concept to us today by talking about what our priorities are. What are the obligations of government, and what is most important? And are the things that are listed here in these nine points more important, less important, of the same importance, than other issues in our budget? And I would have to agree with Senator Quandahl that in fact it seems like a very level playing field that everything should be on the table and that everything should go through the appropriations process, so that in fact those priorities can be weighed one against another. My husband and I are the parents of six. And I can assure you that you don't fix the leaky roof until the children are fed, and you don't buy wallpaper when the roof is leaking. And even when you go to the grocery store and you have a set number of dollars to spend, you don't buy the cookies first. In fact, you might not buy the cookies at all. It doesn't mean you don't love your children. It doesn't mean that they're not good things. It doesn't mean that there won't be a day when they would be the thing you would purchase. But there are times when you have to make choices. And I think that's what we're facing this session. And if in fact we can't put all of the pieces on the table and look at them fairly weighed against one another, then it's going to be very, very difficult, because in fact we are saying that those things that are earmarked are more important than any other obligation of the state, because we have protected them. Now I understand Senator Brashear probably feels that his bill has been hijacked. First the Revenue Committee seriously changed it, and now Senator Quandahl is coming in with a whole new concept. But I'm not afraid of ideas. Creativity is good. Sometimes we find our best solutions that way. And there have been a number of issues that have occurred on this floor. They were new, they were inventive. We've done them, and we didn't worry about the process. Sometimes when the fire is raging, you don't worry about the process. You worry about the results, you worry about the right and the wrong. And I think what we need to worry about most is what are our priorities. Do each of you know what yours are? I know what mine are. And I'm willing to support the Quandahl amendment. Thank you.