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appreciate Senator Raikes' work. And if he would like the balance of my time, he's welcome to that.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, about one minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Keep in mind now that I certainly don't dispute your points. I think they're very well made. But, unfortunately, a lot of the services we're providing in government now are in the same situation with...and certainly K-12 schools absolutely are among the highest of our priorities. But to be able to provide at least some additional spending authority to K-12 schools I think is an important point and there are a number of government services, as you on the Appropriations Committee well understand, we're not even going to be able to hold 0. They're going to be absolute dollar cuts. So, again, I think we're trying to look at balance with this proposal. We're trying to fit it in with what we can do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Bourne and Senator Raikes. Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. And I...when I get done with my little spiel, I will be giving Senator Raikes a little bit of my time too, and I hope that what, I guess, my thoughts on this particular bill isn't too redundant or isn't beneath this body right now. But being I still consider myself a fairly new member of this body, even though that I have been here, this is my fifth session, but I wasn't around back in 1990 or whenever it was when this body made the decision to come up with a state aid formula. But I do have some notions about why the Legislature at that time felt that it would be a good idea to utilize state funds and take that state aid and funnel that to our local school districts to help reduce the property tax burden. And so that's probably the first, I guess, big concept that I'd ask Senator Raikes to comment on is just kind of the genesis or maybe some of the history of the state aid formula since its inception back in the 1990s. There's also another perception that I have from coming here and that is, is that the growth in state aid over the years has contributed somewhat to the budget crisis that we're in right now. Because, be it back in 1990 or 1989, there was no