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we have no one to blame but ourselves, because we won't pass the bills in committee...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that will help the Appropriations Committee restructure.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. We're discussing the Appropriations Committee committee amendments to LB 407. On with discussion. Senator Bromm, followed by Senator Dwite Pedersen and eight others. Senator Bromm.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to make a couple of points, I guess, at this time without getting into some specifics that I'm sure we'll get into a little bit later. First of all, I think we've all watched through the session as the Appropriations Committee has done their work and they've done an extraordinary job in terms of listening to everybody, trying to do the best they can. Going eyeball to eyeball with people who sincerely have needs and trying to accommodate those with the financial situation we have has to be a tremendously difficult task. And I think they've done it conscientiously, they've done it trying to make sure that they help those who had no other option other than us to look to for help, and I commend them for all of that. And I don't want them to feel as this discussion occurs that, certainly myself, and I think when I hear from everyone else, it's not...if we heard different views it's not because it's being critical of their work or the job they've done, but it's searching for answers, exploring, if you will, because most of us didn't have the...I'll call it an opportunity to be on the Appropriations Committee this time, which is probably the very toughest job in this entire session. So I think many of us are exploring possibilities. Those may or may not have merit, but that's what this is all about and that's why we go through this exercise, and whatever time it takes is time well spent. As I think about the budget, the question that I keep having in my mind is I feel a need to engineer this budget in such a way that the likelihood that we'll need to come back to fix it before the next session, that that's very minimal likelihood. We've been back a couple of times, last couple of