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couldn't pay his taxes. His land was sold on tax sales. And I remember my mother sitting at the table and crying because when the last farm was being sold on a tax sale it was a farm that she had inherited. So I know what those tough times are like, and I hope we never have to see them again. One of the things that I wanted to say just a little bit about, and it's been talked about before, and that's increases in salaries. I'm trying to figure out why it wouldn't be better to not increase salaries than to lay people off. If you don't increase salaries, at least they've got food on the table and clothes on their back, but if you lay them off where do they go? And that's, to me, is...appears to be the wrong direction to go. So I wish that these people who are in charge of salaries would recognize in these kind of times that increase in salaries is a bad proposition. It looks bad to the taxpayer when they think that people...when they're having the difficult time they are. And when people are getting increases in their salary it just looks like it's the wrong way to go. And I guess I'm not in the position to make those judgments and I know that Appropriations Committee isn't either, but it does certainly test the patience of some of the taxpayers when they see this is what's happening. So I just had to make a comment about that. And the rest of the time I'm going to give to Senator Engel, because he's got something important, more than I do, to tell you. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Engel, you have 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

**SENATOR ENGEL:** Mr. Speaker, members of the body, thank you, Senator Vrtiska. I'm sure it's nothing more important that you could...I would never have anything more important to say than you have, because everything you...every time you talk I listen to every word. But just...I've served on Appropriations Committee ever since I've been down here and, of course, these last two years probably been the most difficult we've ever had in that particular committee. We had a job to do and I think we did about as good a job as we could do, as far as presenting this budget to you. It's kind of left up to us to do it and, as far as I'm concerned, we did it. But we, to give you an idea how we go through this process, we have our preliminary budget here with our Fiscal Office going over every budget. Then we