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FLOOR DEBATE

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have the actual hearings, and then we come back after the hearings and we go over it again. So we've been over this budget three, at least three, times with a fine-toothed comb. And we've looked at every nook and cranny that there is, as far as I'm concerned, as far as where we can and where we can't cut. We put money back in where we felt it was the prudent thing to do, and especially in the areas where you're talking about these people that can't help themselves. We're talking about the parole, at least, where it's not that effective to put in certain areas because it would be more costly to put people in prison than to keep them on parole, just for instance. And I'm sure our leader here, Senator Wehrbein, has done a great job explaining and we'll go on with this. But the thing is, like I say, if...as far as going back, taking this back to committee, I don't see any need in going back because there's only,...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR ENGEL: ...as far as coming up with the money we need, there's only two places to go and that's education and that's places I don't think too many of us want to go. So I've always said, I've told my constituents over the years as far as raising taxes is the last resort, it's the last place we should go. As far as I'm concerned, we're there. We've reached that last resort. If we're going to continue the core functions of what we are here as a state, we have to do...we have to come up with the additional revenue. We just can't cut ourselves completely out of it. And, like I say, it's been kind of left up to us to do this as far as Appropriations Committee, and I think we have worked hard, and we're not patting anybody on the back because that's our job, that's why we're here, but the thing is I think we've done the best we could do and I'm not going to back away from what we have done. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Engel. Mr. Clerk, do you have items for the record?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Amendments to be printed: Senator Schrock to LB 143, Senator Smith to LB 500. (Legislative Journal pages 1514-1517.)