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FLOOR DEBATE

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service, you think your group is getting too small a slice of the budget pie? Are you upset that we're picking on agencies for women, minorities and other vulnerable groups and targeting them for elimination? Are you worried about the fiscal body blows to higher education? I didn't like dipping down below the poverty level to throw people off Medicaid last year. If you're any of these people then, for goodness sake, jump into this conversation and help start us down the road we need to travel. Otherwise, don't be surprised down the road when you can't get what you want because "King Kong" must be served and his appetite is growing my hundreds of millions of dollars every biennium.

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Senator Maxwell, when I said that we needed to fix the problem, this really wasn't quite what I had in mind, to be quite honest with you. I just simply wanted to say that, Senator Maxwell, I support your ideas of trying to solve the problem. I don't think that we need to fund education through additional income tax and I won't support that, but I felt that I would be remiss if I didn't get up and say that at least I appreciate...I, for one, appreciate the fact that you are trying to think out of the box. And we have...here we are at 3:30. We started the budget debate this morning at nine o'clock. And not to be critical or anything, but we've heard a lot of people say we're spending too much money or we're relying on the revenue source too much, but nobody yet has gotten up and had ideas on how to cut the spending. I know Senator Brashear talked briefly and he mentioned a hiring freeze. Maybe that's a solution. He mentioned a few other things and maybe those are solutions. But, you know, I think until we start coming up with ideas and additional ways to cut or things of that nature or ways to become more efficient...and I'm remiss as well. I haven't offered any suggestions, although I intend to. I just wanted to say to Senator Maxwell I do not support your concept and I hope