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LB 283, 407

takes. Put the amendment up and let us debate it, and accept the majority of the body or whatever number it is. Frankly, I'm a little bit astounded that if there's that much frustration and disappointment in our committee budget that we've laid out, I think in great detail in explaining the amount of cuts that have been taken. And I know that it's popular now in the country to say we've cut the increases. This year they are real cuts. The university alone is going to be several million dollars under its 2001 budget. So to say that we have not made real cuts to most agencies is really disingenuous. And it's true we have increases in Corrections, and it's true we have large increases in Medicaid, but beyond that I think we've been very, very frugal. And to say if you're going to...whatever you're going to make cuts, I mean I don't know how many times to repeat it, cutting state aid to education will increase taxes to somebody. That is a given, and I would like to hear how it will not happen if that's not the case. If we cut the university further, and apparently that's where some want to go, that will raise tuition, and if that's your choice then do it. But let's lay those out. As of right now, there are no amendments filed to LB 407, the mainline appropriations bill, and I invite you to get busy and do that because we just as well start on that situation and find out where we are. I'm getting several e-mails say you haven't cut yet, and I am astounded at that. I didn't add up this last round, but as of last year it was over \$300 million of cuts and I think it will come up...I think we're getting close to a half a million by the time we get done, and some of that will be increases, but...cuts in increases. But you can't have one-fourth of your budget going up 15 to 20 percent, and that's Medicaid, you can't have that portion of your budget providing a safety net for the elderly and the young people in this state that need it. No private business would get away with firing their elderly and their disabled and they're maimed, if they will, because they don't want to pay for them. If they do, the state still picks it up. The state provides health insurance, if you will, long-term nursing home care forever when people don't have the ability to do it themselves. So if you can figure out a way to get around that and let our people lay on the street, if you will, then you need to tell us how we're going to do it. And I'm looking forward to seeing where the cuts that would be made in this budget, because