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FLOOR DEBATE

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gone to, the great amount of cutting that they did do. And I, for one, didn't want to propose cuts lightly or without a good deal of study. And I'm sure that that's the case with many people. So I would expect that, to the extent that there isn't the will to raise the revenue that's necessary to fund the appropriations package, that next go-around there will be plenty of discussion and suggestions. This bill I think is awfully important to advance as well, as well as the prior bill with the alcohol tax, so that we have...also have those players before us. I think at this point it is really...I can't stress enough how important it is to keep the options open. I also, I guess institutionally, have felt for a long time that I would like for this body...and this is not just this year...for this body to be the "crafters" of the budget for the state of Nebraska. You each represent many different constituencies. You are the best people to decide what programs we should stretch and pay for, and what programs we can painfully let fall by the wayside. The Governor is entitled to his veto authority. He's entitled to introduce bills, a separate branch of government. But he can't pass bills. Only you can pass bills. If the Governor vetoes a revenue bill, he vetoes the whole thing. If he wants to line-item veto an appropriations bill, he has the right to do that. So if we send him more appropriations than we send revenue, we're inviting him to design the budget, to decide for your constituents which programs are more important than others, whether the cuts should be in education, or what...K-12, or...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...higher ed. We're passing the buck, in my opinion. It is very important, I think, to this body that whatever the decision is, whether it be \$350 million, \$300 million, \$250 million, or somewhere around or in between, that we at some point send the necessary revenue with our suggested appropriation, and that we design that package, and that we do it in time so that we do not have to be here in the middle of June still trying to design the package. Because I think we have enough information. We have enough bills to work with. And if we have the will to do it, the pieces are all there. Now, I don't know what the answer is yet. But this debate today has been good, and I think it will continue to be