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value what takes place in that classroom, we value it above all of the other extracurricular, transportation, administrative, all of the other kinds of things that could be done to cut when monies are tight, and that's where I think the priority should lie. I think Senator Bourne hit it square on the head with this amendment in saying we need to value the classroom teaching, the instruction and the dynamic of what takes place there above all of these other potential cuts, and that we, as a legislative body, concur that this is our priority and that classroom instruction is a high priority for us, just like it is in our constitution, just like it is in the founding principles of this country. And I rise in strong support of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Foley,...

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you very much,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the Bourne amendment. I thank Senator Bourne for bringing it to us. Some of the previous speakers have made many of the points that I would have made, so I won't be long on this, but clearly, if you look at the state's financial position, particularly that out biennium with that \$800 million deficit looming over us, it's clear that our ability to fully fund the state aid program is going to be very difficult in the ensuing years. So anything that we can do legislatively to keep those reductions away from the classroom we ought to do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Foley, it's hard to hear you. I'm sorry, but it's hard to hear you.

SENATOR FOLEY: Sure.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Could you speak a little into the mike?

SENATOR FOLEY: Yes.