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probably won't have a lot to say. I'd just as soon probably take my five minutes on this, and be able to respond in...at length. So I thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Redfield, on the Erdman amendment, AM1763.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. When we came here this session, I knew that we were in budget trouble. And I also knew that it was very important that when I walked in the door the first day of session that I clearly had in mind what my priorities were for the state of Nebraska, just as you had to set your priorities. And then we have to come together and we have to find a way where we can all agree on what those priorities would be. And that's part of the democratic process. But I can clearly tell you that K through 12 was something that was very important to me. And I think that as we have seen the will of the body expressed through the past 70 days, we have seen that that's clearly a priority for all of us. And one of the pieces that I am pleased to see in this amendment is that in Section 13, the education budget for K-12, there's \$136 million more than there was in the Governor's plan. And that is in complete agreement with the Appropriations Committee. And I think that's an important piece. Then I looked at higher education to see where that piece would be, because that's an extension of what we do for our young people. And I see again an increase for the University of Nebraska over the Governor's budget of \$38 million, state colleges \$3.5 million, and community colleges an extra \$10 million over the Governor's proposal. Now, they're still not as high as the Appropriations Committee had looked at, and so I had to ask myself whether I could live with the size of those cuts. I have six children. From the day the first one was born, we started saving for them to go to college. We just started the last one this year. She just completed her freshman year. And I can tell you that college is very expensive. You all know that college is very expensive. But I can also tell you it's the best investment you'll ever make, and it is the investment that will bring you more return than any other investment you could make. And so I was interested in looking at the numbers and seeing how Nebraska fared in comparison with