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Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'd like to also thank Senator Erdman for the work that he's put out doing this job. I think Senator Jensen expressed my views probably the best this morning. He likes the number that we're getting to, and I like that number we're getting to. I don't necessarily like all of the items in there, but at least we're getting the discussion going now. I'm going to tell you where I am in this whole budget process. When I came into the session this year, I was pretty much in favor of cuts. I needed cuts. And as I watched the Appropriations Committee work day after day and work into the evening and they were able to come up with a little over half of the problem solved with cuts, I came to the understanding we were not going to solve this whole problem with cuts. But I did decide I would be willing to extend the income tax, sales tax, and cigarette taxes from last year and go along with the increased alcohol tax that we are working on this year, but we still have somewhere around \$100 million deficit, and that's the part that I'm uncomfortable with. And I, like many others, have been frustrated because there seem to be no other solution, and I absolutely...or it just appeared to me that the only solution there would be to get to that \$100 million is to go to K-12 education or the university system, and I absolutely will not go for any more cuts to K-12 education. So I'd like to thank Senator Erdman for the work that he's done on this. It's been a lot of work on his part. And even if this amendment doesn't pass in the form that it's in now, I know that we're going to have a few more cuts than we initially had and I owe a lot of thanks to him. And with that, I would give Senator Erdman my time.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Senator Erdman, you have three minutes.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Again, I appreciate the body's indulgence in this discussion, because I think we're either here today or here maybe ten days from now, because we're either going to make some decisions today about how do we comprehensively review where we're spending money, or we're going to do it after we figure