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LB 407

your Legislature is poorly staffed. And with term limits coming, it's particularly important that we not only be well-staffed with what we have, but probably we should be enhancing the staff that we have. Otherwise, the bureaucracy will have an even better handle on information than the legislators have, and the lobby will have...they're not...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the lobby won't cut back, let me assure you, and they'll have even better research capacities compared to the Legislature. And everything that we value about the Legislature, in terms of an independent, well-researched thought process emanating from the Legislature itself, will be very much less true. So in the Appropriations Committee, we didn't find this half million dollars worth of cuts, or this \$795,000 worth of cuts that Senator Erdman has come up with. It's exactly the wrong time in history to be suggesting that the Legislature make major cutbacks in its research capacity, exactly the wrong time in history because term limits is coming very soon. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I appreciate the discussion, I do, and the underlying...you have the philosophy. You have the priorities. But I guess here's where I'm at. You ask; I gave. What would you do? Here is it. Again, if the numbers aren't in areas where you like, we can do offsets. We can do things that rearrange where the money comes from. We can make decisions further than where we are. We can close buildings. We can do a lot of things that weren't in my underlying amendment intentionally, and why is that? Because I'm trying to balance delicately on the things that I've heard from the body. What's the most important thing? Well, we need to fund education. Senator Byars, before lunch, said we were going to...you know, state ward education is a big part. Well, I agree. I agree. The other side of that is, is that we're giving \$21 million more to special ed than we did prior. Is that a fair trade-off? Is