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you are recognized to speak.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schimek, members of the Legislature, this is not a huge item so, you know, obviously it's not going to change the world if we go one way or the other. But it's just kind of interesting to me that in the previous Erdman amendment you had the suggestion before you to cut one point something million dollars from the legislative salary budget, basically, and just in this one area in the Fiscal Office this is the position that was determined to be most expendable and, yet, we can't even cut back one person in this particular area of the legislative budget. I'm just trying to illustrate how far apart we seem to be or how unrealistic we seem to be in some of the proposals that have been submitted. I mean, what is the real situation? Is the real situation we can afford to cut \$1.2 million from the legislative budget? Or is the real situation we can't afford to cut anything and we need to add \$145,000, whatever it is, back? So these kinds of determinations, I think it should be interesting to you as we take them one by one. And I'm trying to figure out why it is that this body seems to think we need to reach a certain number, I don't know if it's \$280 million or \$300 million, as opposed to looking at things individually, one by one, and figuring out where you are. Because as we look at these things one by one, things on balance really don't come out much different than what the Appropriations Committee has recommended to you, at least so far. So why is it that a process that brings you on your closest examinations to the same point that the Appropriations Committee comes to, why is it that you want to be somewhere different from there if you look at the big picture and it's a \$355 million gap and you don't want a \$355 million gap? That tells me that you don't want to make the cuts and you think it's wrong to make the cuts and bad policy, yet still somehow you're struggling to be at some lower figure and still be able to tell yourself it's good policy to get to that lower figure. But I don't think you can have it both ways. I think the only fair way to do it is to look at things one by one, if that's what we need to do, if you're still of the opinion that over all the Appropriations Committee has not done a good job. But I suggest to you that that individual examination of items will result in about the same result that the Appropriations Committee came to,