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will use my time next time to tell you why I think we're here and to tell you what I think about a whole number of things, some more relevant (laugh) than others, but all of which I feel a need to say. Thank you.

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

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'd like to ask a question, if I could, to Senator Bromm.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Bromm, first of all, I need to tell you that, even though I don't like it, I think this is probably the way we're going to have to go, but I'd like to ask you if you could tell me how close this comes to closing the gap?

SENATOR BROMM: I think, Senator Vrtiska, if we did the dollars that we're talking about here, the gap would be approximately 315. I think we'd still be at about 315.

SENATOR VRTISKA: So then the obvious question is, where do we go from here?

SENATOR BROMM: That's correct. And there may be some other amendments and if some of those are adopted that we may get down a little bit more, but I think if we get into the vicinity of somewhere in the 300 area we may have to see if the body is willing to go that route, unless there are some other suggestions. Now, if you do put a price tag on Senator Pedersen's amendment last night, which I haven't in giving you that figure, you do get below that. You do. Depending on whether that's worth 8 or 7 or 11, whatever you put on that, that would be an additional reduction. I would prefer to...I would prefer perhaps, even if that stays in law, to perhaps not consider that in our budget and over budget in case something develops that that doesn't work out. But that's not taken into account in the figures that I just gave you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I appreciate your work and the work of