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that's what's going to have to provide for all of the A bills, and the economic package that's going to be proposed. So I think that we need to keep in mind, however, that any encroachments that we make on this should be very conservative. I'll tell you that our committee was very conservative when we met to look at the various needs. Because we were actually inundated with proposals from various needy groups, and they did need. But we had to pare down their needs to make a reasonable proposal. And that's what we did. So we didn't say, okay, whatever you want. We said, we'll do what we can. But we were not guided solely by the economic circumstances. We determined ahead of time that we were going to review the various requests and determine whether those requests were reasonable or not reasonable. And then we thought, if we don't have sufficient assets, in our opinion, to meet those needs, we would have to pare those down. But we wanted to treat the people who we met at first and the people who we met last all had the same opportunity to present their materials. Sometimes there is the fear that the people who get their last efforts made will be shortened because of the fact, you say, well, we're almost out of money, we can't do your deal. We treated them all, in a sense, virtually the same. We compared the total...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...proposal. We have some differences with the basic things concerning the Governor's budget. The first one was the proposal concerning the higher education in the state. And people will say, you funded higher education with a lot of money this year. Well, it is a lot of money. But where is it in comparison? In 2001, we funded higher education, as far as the university was concerned, for example, with \$15 million more than we are providing in this budget this biennium. So I'll have to leave it up to you as to whether that's an exorbitant amount of money. It's 3.5 percent less than what we provided four years ago. So...and you have to couple in with that the fact that their healthcare needs, their insurance, the utilities, all those things, have increased. So it's really, in a sense, far more of a cut than 3.5 percent.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Pederson.