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again. And it would increase the TEEOSA school aid to make up for the difference. So we would get a double whammy in connection with special education. So actually, we need to fund special education. We determined that that's something that we should do, so we provided for it. We provided for 3 percent. The law provides that we can go up to 5 percent. And I know Senator Raikes has a proposal to do just that, to raise it to 5 percent. But in our budget, we have proposed 3 percent. And that would, of course, leave the difference for the local schools to pick up. So I think we'll have to govern by what you think in connection with that proposal. Another matter that came to us out of the blue on the forty-fifth day was the fact that, whoops, you owe 15 million extra dollars for retirement funds. The state of Nebraska, for primarily the people that are covered by the PERB board--and I'm speaking primarily of the public schools systems in the state--are on a defined benefit plan. What that means is that they will get their benefits irrespective of what the market is. So in this case, with the market having been down for at least two years, it impacted considerably the amount of money available to fund the teachers' retirement. So a cooperative effort was made, with the help of...a lot of help from Senator Stuhr, as the Retirement Chairman. And we were able to negotiate the first year of that retirement program in conjunction with the providers and the employees. So the first year is taken care of in that respect. But it was about \$15 million that we were going to have to pay. The Governor had no awareness of that. So these are just things that we have had to deal with since that time. And I think that I would characterize the budget that we have proposed to you as being both socially and educationally and economically sound. I hope you consider it that same way, because that's the effort that we made to try to accomplish those goals. So with that, I will close on the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. You've heard the opening on the committee amendment by the Chairman of the committee. Mr. Clerk, motion on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have to the committee amendments is offered by Senator Foley, which is AM1330. Senator, I have a note you wish to withdraw this