

stands. Either we are willing to do that, or we vote for the bracket motion, we send it back to the Appropriations Committee and then, when it comes back out on the floor, we have to accept everything the Appropriations Committee comes up with, or it's all been a total waste of time. And I can't live with that. I was elected to vote on the budget, to take my responsibility to represent my constituents on not only this bill, but in every other bill that comes before this body, and I'm not willing to abdicate the final decision on the budget to the Appropriations Committee, much as I trust them, and much as I think they have done an excellent job this year on the budget. I am not willing to abdicate that final responsibility, and I hope others on this floor will agree with me. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Brown, your light is next to speak to the amendment to the bracket motion.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the body, if the bracket motion is successful, the Appropriations Committee will go back and make cuts, and they will not be across-the-board cuts, in my opinion. We will go for real restructuring, which I think is one of the goals of the committee, and that's the only way we are really going to meet some of the things that people have talked about on the floor today. And we will make those cuts, and we will expect that none of you will support any additional spending including state aid. The bracket motion has 12 signatures. Yesterday we had two opportunities to show our true colors about holding the line on spending. Senators Abboud, Bohlke, Cudaback, Dierks, Jones, and Vrtiska, you signed the amendment and voted for increased spending on the Bernard-Stevens amendment yesterday. Senators Abboud, Bohlke, Cudaback, Dierks, Robinson, and Vrtiska, you signed the amendment and voted for increased spending by opposing the bracket on LB 425. If we make cuts, those cuts must go into the Reserve Fund. Otherwise, we are just shifting money around. Senators, put your votes where your demagoguery is. If you want cuts, and that is the will of the body, we will make them, and then we all are going to live with them, and we'd better live with them. And we better be willing not to pass one more spending measure if what we're...or, otherwise, we are just saying that we are going to shift the money around. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Robinson, on the amendment to the bracket motion.