

that we can still put in a full day. I hope senators don't leave at two-thirty or...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...three o'clock. I hope we stay and work through the budget until we get it to the point we want, and if it takes staying until seven o'clock tonight, let's do it. We've got four days to recover. Let's stay late, get the job done, start going through the amendments.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Coordsen, your light is next.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. Senator Chambers, I certainly would not profess to be as wise as Senator Chambers, and I will defer to you in the field of wisdom, certain. I can make predictions, and the predictions are mathematical, simply that the bracket motion I suspect, and I hate to disappoint my friend Senator Robinson, but it doesn't stand a ghost of a chance, the snowball at the gate of the proverbial hot place, and the reason for that is simply the mathematics of the floor. There are, what, 40 people here now; 9 members of Appropriations, you have 31 or thereabouts left to get a majority vote. But that's the problem I think that many of us have faced. I am...and I would stand corrected on this, but the biennial budget, at least in the years I've been here, has been the recommendation, the recommendation of the Appropriations Committee to the floor of the Legislature. I do not remember any successful floor effort to reduce any part of the Appropriations recommendation during a regular session, at least. There have been additions, but I don't remember any...any reductions because of the mathematics. If everybody is here, you have to get 25 out of 40, much different than the majority of the body. I don't know, because we've not come to a vote, I don't know how this Appropriations Committee reacts to questions about what they've decided. But this process is much different than all of the other bills we have. All of the other bills that we have are either recommended as introduced to the body of the Legislature by the committee that they have been referenced to and where the hearings were heard, or the committee has added to that a recommendation for a committee amendment. And those recommendations are fair game on the floor of the Legislature, and you have a pretty good shot because, generally speaking, the committees are either in supportive as