

speaks with one. He can make that decision. He can make a rational decision as to where that cut should be made, whereas, we, at this point, after the...probably be about \$10 million worth of Appropriations Committee cuts, are having trouble speaking with one voice. I think the proper way to do it is to let the Governor do it. Now if the Governor should get this bill in a form which he thinks is too high, and which I might agree is too high, and I think the mood here in this body is not to override his decisions. If he can make these selective decisions, however, at this point with some limitations, he has not indicated to us where all those cuts should be. He has not come out in front and said, look, you should cut this, this, this and this. Now he has gone along with the Appropriations Committee cuts. I think he's approving some other cuts that some other people are offering. But I think it would be more appropriate for the Governor to come out and actually make those cuts. We don't have to raise taxes. We don't have to override the Governor's line-item vetoes. I don't think we would. The Governor, when he started out in December with his budget proposal, it was about \$880 million. At that time he said, don't worry about raising taxes, this is the budget that we need and this state will be better off with this budget, even though we do have to raise taxes. As I remember it, that was his message at that point, go with that budget. He also was quoted as saying that he would not back down off that budget. Well, at this point he has had I think four budgets, backed down to \$860 million, then he agreed with the \$846 million that the Appropriations Committee was considering at that time. Then after the latest revenue projections he is down to \$816 million. Well, if we can't agree on where to make these selective cuts in an appropriate manner, let the Governor do it. I think that is appropriate. That is good legislation. That is much better than across the board cuts that we have in this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the amendment as it is amended and the arguments that whatever is necessary can be added back into the budget on the floor. At the outset of the operation of the Appropriations Committee this year, the Appropriations Committee originally asked for agencies and departments to submit a budget request of 95 percent of