

well. We have some specific cuts coming up. I suggest we look at those individually, and where appropriate make the cuts. But let's not take a meat ax to the budget. Let's take a scalpel and try and cut out the fat and leave the meat.

PRESIDENT: Your time has expired. Thank you. We are on the DeCamp amendment to the main amendment. Senator Hoagland, then Senators Beutler, Harris, Chambers and Higgins.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President, colleagues, let me just rise briefly to oppose Senator DeCamp's new proposal and indicate that I think his first idea, as amended by Senator Beutler, is a better idea, and a good idea, and one that I will continue to support. Once again I'd urge all of you not to lose sight of the forest for the trees. This weekend I spent quite a bit of time talking to the people in my block and in my neighborhood about our budget situation here. I wasn't able to get any farther away from the house than our twin stroller would allow, but I did have a chance to talk to quite a few people. As I indicated earlier, up in Omaha on my block and in my neighborhood people simply can't understand how, with a budget of \$1.9 billion, we cannot find \$14 or \$15 million in cuts. They know it can be done, and we know it can be done. They are not down here subject to the entreaties of the agencies like we are every day, so they don't quite understand the circumstances we operate under. But for that reason they have a better view and a longer view. I'm just convinced we can do it. I think Senator DeCamp's first idea is the best idea. I would urge you all to support it, support his first idea. Here is the reason, it gives much more flexibility to state government because each agency, itself, can decide how to accommodate the 2 percent cut, can reallocate its own resources. But more important than that it gives the Appropriations Committee some clear guidance from the Legislature. It gives the Appropriations Committee the opportunity to go back to its hearing room and come up with \$14 million, or thereabouts, in selected cuts and present an alternative plan to the 2 percent across the board cut. I think that is the responsible thing to do. I think it is clearly doable. With the size of the state budget we have now, there is utterly no question we can't do it. I would urge you to keep your eye on that issue, on the forest and not on the trees, because it can be done. I think it is our responsibility here in this body to do it, not to pass that