

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Next I have lights to inquire about. Senator Hoagland, do you wish to speak? Senator Wesely and then next is Senator Labedz.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members I would support the Chambers amendment and I would hope all of you would pay attention to what he has to say because this is putting a face on the budget cuts that we are so apt and anxious to support today and everybody here is talking about the need to hold the line on the budget. But, I hope as we listen and talk about the different particular items in the budget cuts that you are contemplating, you will keep in mind what Senator Chambers is talking about. This particularly points out the fact that a 2 percent across the board cut or any across the board cut is a little bit like dropping a bomb on a city. You are from a distance and you watch below as the bomb falls and then explodes and you don't see the anguish and suffering that occurs down below you. Exactly what Senator Chambers is talking about is exactly what will happen because we are going to hurt people. A 2 percent cut across the board is going to include programs that very much support the very low income and disadvantaged people of this state. The program that Senator Chambers has identified very clearly and most directly leads to that conclusion. But, there are other programs across the board that would be included that all likewise are going to affect people very adversely. The thing that I think we don't realize it is so easy to sit back and say an across the board cut everybody shares alike and suffers alike and that is not necessarily the case. There are those that have much less out there that are going to be hurt much more by this loss of support than others that are a little better off and with programs that they can easily do without. That is why selective cuts always make some more sense but are more difficult to do because they are more direct and you can see exactly what is going to happen that makes it more difficult to support, but nevertheless, at least you know what is happening. In this 2 percent across the board cut many of you have sat back and you think that sounds good. I'm going to support a 2 percent across the board cut. But, really, have you thought about what it means? Who are the people hurt? Who are the people that are going to lose programs and I think one of the things we haven't done is put a face on these budget cuts because we think that all of these government