

do. Now it is not easy. There is nothing easy about the process here today but the fact of the matter is you can't spend what you don't have and we don't have the money right now. And unless somebody wants to vote for a tax increase and I know there are some people here that do, I have had some tell me that, and I told them I don't want to vote for a tax increase and that is going to be my stand from now till the end of this session. And I am just frustrated at the fact that we have sat here for almost two weeks now arguing among ourselves and we get some specific cuts and yet when those cuts hit home close to us we all scatter like a bunch of pheasants. All I can say is if, in fact, we have to accept cuts, I will accept them. If it is in the area of agriculture, I will take them. But I have made up my mind that I am not going to support tax increase. And the fact is unless you want to vote for a tax increase, I just can't see how we are going to avoid it if we put these programs back in. I was on a committee two years ago, my freshman year I was in here, we had a bill brought to us by the Governor to eliminate or to at least pare back a couple of programs. That was the longest hearing I sat in, I think, in the entire time I have been here. We had agency members and people who use those services parade in front of us for literally hours and I can tell you, quite frankly, that if this is long here, it is going to be even longer in the committees because they are certainly going to bring out the guns. The fire, if you want to talk about it, is back there in the rotunda and the pressure is being put on us. I felt it just as much as everybody else, but I am going to support the Appropriations Committee. I think they have had to make some tough choices and even if they are tough choices, I think that we should support them. We were the ones that goaded them into doing something. They brought a package out here for us to look at and even though not all of us can support everything, I guess I would say that we shouldn't take this package and eliminate it or ruin it now because we have got a chance. We have got a chance to do some substantial cuts to put back the budget to an area I think that we can support with our current tax rates. Mr. President, I would like to defer the rest of my time to Senator Haberman who has some comments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, you may use the rest of his time.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body,