

a lot of people because we are talking about a fairly significant change in our policy as a Legislature and we are talking about the pros and cons of it. I would hope that people that are here would listen to the arguments and listen to what you've heard so far. I am from the Appropriations Committee as you all well know and I have been a supporter of LB 258, but what I am hearing so far as far as the motions to indefinitely postpone are just...are really relatively nonsensical arguments as far as I'm concerned. What I have basically heard is that we need to indefinitely postpone this biennial situation because we are in unstable times and we should do this because we need to have control for our constituencies and our political subdivisions in our district on an annual basis. But it has been recognized that if it were more stable times and if we had been able to stay on an annual budget more stably, that it probably wouldn't be a bad idea. Well I would submit to you that for some of those very same reasons that have a biennial budget makes very good sense indeed. If you can have the biennial budget as some of the opponents of the bill have already said, you can plan better for the future. You can ask for more stability. You can allow the agencies and the subdivisions of government a chance to plan out and understand what their budget is likely to be, to be like, for the next two years, not for one year. If the arguments against this bill are rational, then obviously what we should do is not have even an annual budget. Obviously what we should have is a monthly budget and we can adjust it on a monthly basis so that we can really have a true control and be able to take advantage of the fluctuations and volatility of our economy right now. If you carry that argument to its conclusion you see that that isn't a good argument. Obviously budgets are for planning in the future. The further in the future you can plan, the better off you are. Obviously budgets are subjective and they are subject to change and their volatile at times, but it doesn't preclude us from setting the budget whether it be in a state government or in your own household. Something is better than nothing in terms of planning, and, yes, we have had to make some changes in this last year, some painful changes than we have in previous years. Hopefully that won't happen to the extent that it has again, but I need to point out to you that nothing in this bill precludes that from happening. As a matter of fact, this bill, LB 258, allows us as a body to do a better job of making the changes necessary to reflect the economic times and reflect the differences in