

office great deal of time. That office saves money in terms of the disparity of having different offices trying to run around trying to understand this or that problem when, in fact, the expertise is over there and we ought to utilize it and it's there to be efficient, and so I think the Ombudsman Office ought to be continued and not canceled. Now, furthermore, it seems to me as we talk about across the board budget cuts, this agency in the fact that we know more about it, ought to be enlightening to you as we look at other agencies and work our way through these budgets. When we met last May the Appropriations Committee got up and said across the board budget cuts are not a good idea because you don't know exactly the impact and you have not a very fair, really way to deal with these across the board efforts and they were right. And we agreed with them and they went back in and had selective cuts and we dealt with the budget in that fashion. I didn't like a lot of those cuts but at least we knew what we were doing and so do the public. In this case we really don't know what we're doing. We don't know the impacts of a lot of these cuts. There are many that we have some indication of what we may actually be doing, but for the public at large, as they try to follow the debate on this floor, it is very difficult for them to follow what it means to them.

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. What does this mean to Nebraska? And I am suggesting to you, as we work our way through this, we'll find time and again where it is not apparent that, in fact, Nebraskans will be harmed by some of the cuts because of the extensive nature that they are being proposed at, at this point, and my suggestion to you is from what I have been able to evaluate in looking at the budget, that a percent and a half cut is difficult unto itself but is a much more agreeable cut than a 3 percent across the board cut. And I am going to be proposing that we reduce the 3 percent across the board cut to a 1.5 percent across the board cut, recognizing the fact that this is midyear, that we went through a budget cutting session in May that was agonizing and we cut that budget down to the bare bone and now we're getting into it even deeper and that a 1.5 percent cut is not insignificant. It is a major cut. It will hurt programs, but it is a much more agreeable cut than the 3 percent which would damage ourselves for the long term in this state. So I am suggesting, as Senator Beutler