

that, that dollar amount, 171,000, should you exempt out the cost of the special session. We need to consider that all the way through this process this morning that if you eliminate expenditures at one point, then how are we going to recover that elsewhere. Also, I think a question that might be useful to ask yourself is, how frequently have you used this office and Senator Schmit certainly raises some questions that are worthy of specific answers and I would hope that we would have those. So it is your choice obviously, but I think you should ask yourself, is this is a reasonable way to cut the budget, is this a way that we don't have a problem come back and haunt us next year? And with that I'd like to yield to Senator Goll the rest of my time because he has a few things to say about this as well.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Higgins to address the Beutler amendment. Senator Goll.

SENATOR GOLL: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, we're on round one. We have ninety some agencies to discuss today. I think it's just as well that we talk about ourselves first. Perhaps it will clear the air. As I said yesterday in a meeting to which several of you attended, we have to make one of two choices. We either have to cut our budgets or we have to raise our revenues. During our deliberations in the Appropriations Committee last week which represented a number of long days, we made some decisions about those items that we felt could be eliminated from the scope of government. We made some decisions about just what should government do or what it should not do for the people we represent and one of the decisions we made for proposal to you, the legislative body of our state government, was the defunding of the Ombudsman's Office, and I would like to share with you, my thoughts. And first of all, I'm willing to concede its value, somewhat its value, to the overall citizenry of our state. What are some of the justified complaints that the office gets? Withholding money for child support from federal paycheck, disciplinary actions against inmates in the penal system, transfer of a Regional Center patient, observation of an inmate's religious dietary restrictions, alleged misappropriation of state funds, agency recruitment procedures, unauthorized firearms in a state vehicle, personal use of state equipment, termination of job assignments, denial of a professional license, improper use of a state vehicle, refusal to control feedlot waste runoff, demolition of home and new right-of-way,