

the amendment and ask that the question be divided which under the rules I believe cannot be denied and then we will proceed agency by agency.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, we are now offering the amendment that was discussed a few moments ago and let me make certain that its terms are essentially understood. So I do hope that you are listening. This amendment deviates from the work product of the Governor and the work product of the Appropriations Committee because it makes somewhat different assumptions. The first thing the amendment says is we shall reduce appropriations across-the-board for the state by 1 percent. We shall do that. Now there always are a few items that are preserved because they are entitlement items and in fact you can't do the 1 percent reduction. But that portion will result in an expenditure savings of about 6 million. And the second portion of the amendment, which is the one that will set some people's teeth on edge but is the important priority portion is it says we shall also reduce aid to local subdivisions, and they are our cities, and our counties, and our schools. Those are the only three that are picked out. We will do that by 5 additional percent. So that reduction for those folk will be a 6 percent because they already took the 1 percent of the first go-around plus 5 additional percent. Now that reduction is expected to generate approximately pretty close to \$10 million. So this is about a \$16 million amendment. It is a little less than the work product of the Governor and a little less than the work product of the Appropriations Committee but it still may be amended to come up with a figure of \$19 million or \$20 million but you have to deal with the concept and the concept is really one of priorities, and what Senator Remmers is saying, and Senator Beutler is saying, and Senator DeCamp is saying, and I am saying is that our priorities right now, our priorities right now are to make certain that as we go through the process of budget reductions which I think everyone of us here want to do because we have to do it in a declining time of revenue that we do protect our state agencies who over the long pull have really been slowly squeezed and wrung out and wrung dry and slowly inexorably their programs are becoming increasingly anemic. We are going to protect them. By the same token we are going to say to our local subdivisions, our real