

eliminate a few things, a few controversial things. But state government did not suffer all that much under our hands during the last session. State aid to local subdivisions, however, has been an easy target for cutting. We don't see when we drive down to Lincoln in the streets of Lincoln a lot of evidence of the local subdivisions. We have cut them though. We did cut in 1982, a 2 percent across-the-board cut in the Special Session following the election of 1982. We did another 2 percent cut last session, the last time we met together. Now we are being proposed a 6 percent cut across-the-board in state aid programs in this amendment if you adopt this amendment. If you adopt this amendment, you are affecting basically a 10 percent cut in state aid programs over the past three years. Now I question whether that is a responsible action on our part. I know it is a tough process looking at the budget. I know the Appropriations Committee's recommendations are frustrating and they are difficult to deal with. However, I plan on looking at those recommendations, taking them very seriously and seeing what is in that proposal that I can support long before I come out and try to wave a magic wand just to get home. I want to see this hard work that this committee has done. I look forward to debating their recommendations and I suggest the rest of us sit back, keep a cool head, reject this amendment at this point and let's get into the budget the job that we were called down here to do and take a look at all of the state government and local government programs and see where the best place to cut is as opposed to this magic wand solution. Thank you.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and fellow members of the Legislature, I would just like to say that at first blush when the amendment was offered it struck me as being a little bit inconsistent on the part of Senator DeCamp because I recognize that over the years many times when we cut state spending Senator DeCamp has been the first person to rise to his feet and say, now just a minute, what we are doing here is that we are not just saving money for the state but we are shoving the costs back upon local government and, therefore, upon the property owner. At the same time, I have heard Senator Warner many times on this floor remind us, and correctly so, that the first responsibility of the Legislature is to fund those necessary