

in their budget, represented a significant cut to them. So the only way to really get proportionality of the cuts is to do a 1 percent for the state arm and a 5 percent, or 6 percent it turns out for the local arm and there you have proportionality. And, finally, for the schools never let it be forgot that the schools have it within their power to persuade the voters of our state that additional school finance is necessary...

SENATOR MARSH: Time is up.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...by supporting LB 662.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Madam President, first of all since it looks to me like the Chamber is virtually empty, I would like to ask for a call of the house because I think this is a subject that needs to be heard by all of our colleagues.

SENATOR MARSH: A call of the house has been requested. Please vote. The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Madam President.

SENATOR MARSH: We are under call. Please indicate your presence. The house is under call. All senators who are within the sound of my voice, please return to the Legislative Chamber and indicate your presence here. Please remain in your seats as long as we are under call. There currently are 12 excused. That means 37 should be present in their seats. Senator DeCamp, Senator Goodrich, Senator Schmit, Senator Remmers. Senator Remmers, please indicate your presence. Senator Peterson. Senator Smith, Senator Rogers, Senator Peterson, Senator Goodrich. Jump high. There are still two absent according to my list, Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: If you don't mind, Madam President, I will go ahead and begin my time and then hopefully the other two will come in in the meantime. I think the issue before us is one of those issues and one of those times when we had all ought to be very serious about our deliberations. We are in difficult times. I know that probably as well if not better than anybody else in here. And I am going to surprise some folks because I have been one of those people