

and the government cut off that free gift of the 20 or 30 percent, what happened in many and even most cases at the state and local level? A hundred percent of the program was eliminated. So the saving wasn't just at the federal level where they cut it off, the saving or the burden went on down for the whole program and frequently you sponsored them, we watched them happen here, it was the only way we got rid of a lot of programs, the only way. Feeding something that is out of control, feeding it additional taxes doesn't solve the problem. We proved that. You have to get control of the dog because we have now become the tail. Of an \$850 million state budget, about \$400 million you have lost total control of. All you are doing is feeding it into local government over which you have no control, which gets us to Senator Lamb's point about fair and equal and just and all those things. A 1 percent across-the-board where the state is totally or where the state is mostly responsible for the funding of the University as an example is almost a 1 percent cut in their budget, their total budget. But a 1 percent cut in the portion you are feeding something you have no control over, local government, and where you only make up a small portion, 20, 25, 15 percent, is, in fact, a one-fourth or a one-fifth cut at the local level in their budget. A proportionate cut for them is about 5 percent. If you were going to do it responsibly, you would have a negative lid, I suppose. A 5 percent cut or a 2 percent cut at the local level of local spending, that would be the other way to do it. Actually have a negative lid. Now that is not likely. What is the best thing that can come out of this? Maybe for the first time addressing the property tax problem and spending overall for the state by cutting back. Now I am going to say something to the Appropriations Committee. I admire you for your work and, yes, you have been trying to deal with an impossible thing, that is trying to get the state budget in line and while you are doing it manage and make good things happen in a \$3 billion total budget. But here is my word of warning and caution and suggestion. We have all in our lifetime had multitudes of examples of the golden ring swinging by and maybe she is only there...

SENATOR MARSH: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: ...for a little while, maybe it is only that one little moment, but we have all done something where we missed it or we remember back and we grabbed it. I