

we're not treating natural resources properly. We are not providing for proper protection of our groundwater because we have not relegated the resources necessary for that protection.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb and then Senator Scofield.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the amendment. I believe the cut should stay at the greater level and these are some of the reasons. When the Appropriations Committee first began their deliberations they were aiming at cuts in excess of \$40 million. Now the cuts are down below \$20 million and we seem to be going down from there. These cuts are difficult to handle, I agree. I also agree that special sessions are the wrong time, the wrong place to form budgets because commitments have already been made. However, we are in a special situation as you all know where revenues are reduced and we have no alternative. But we're talking about 3 percent cuts, 3 percent cuts. Now that is not cuts in the total budget of 3 percent, that's merely the cut that comes from the state tax dollars so it is not a 3 percent cut in the budget. It's more than a 3 percent cut in tax dollars because part of the year, fiscal year, has been used up. But we're not talking about the whole budget when we say 3 percent. We're just talking about the state contribution which is not the whole budget of all these institutions. Now how severe is a 3 percent cut? I really don't know. I really don't know, except I know that out there in agriculture, if we only had a 3 percent cut in our income we would think it was really great. I mean a 3 percent cut out there is not something that generates headlines. Yesterday I called the state statistician to find out what the price of beef cattle and corn was a year ago as compared to now and to see what the difference is. Now choice steers in October, October 12, were \$61.70 last year. This year they are \$57.00. That's a 7.68 percent reduction. That's much greater than a 3 percent. Take the price of number two yellow corn. October 23, 1984, and number two yellow corn was \$2.67. 1985, October 23, price of number two yellow corn, \$2.22. That's a 16.8 percent reduction. Now if you want to take choice steers, in September you get really a big one.