

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, everybody has been standing on their feet, hopefully, or sitting in their seat or out in the hall talking about this issue and Senator Higgins a moment ago talked to Senator Landis about now just what are we addressing, what is the issue before us? And as I understand the issue before us is 2 percent appropriation cut for the state colleges and I think the reason that we "diversed" into all of the rest of the rhetoric is because it is difficult to make one decision without considering the other decisions that go hand in glove. Are you willing to do 2 percent for colleges? Does that mean that you're going to be willing to do 2 percent for the University and how are you going to treat the technical community colleges? And then if you do that, how do you impact the subdivisions? So all of these issues are running through your mind at the same time and it is hard to just address the one amendment at state colleges. Now how does the public perceive all of this? I think the public is saying, it's a special session and we sent them down there or we're paying for them to be there to do one job. Why don't they just do the job, make the business decisions, the tough decisions that have to be made, forget the posturing, forget the political rhetoric, do the job, it's a special session and then go home? And sometimes I think we forget those tough decisions. Now I agree, our future is in education. That's where it all is. That's our investment in our next generation and that means our state. And like Senator Scofield pointed out, I don't think anybody wants to cut in these areas. I don't want to cut this much because I know that as we go down life's path, whether it is you or your family or all the rest of us, it's not straight and narrow. There are all these little crooked roads going off and where are you going to make the decision? Are you going to turn right or left? And we have to help our young people make those decisions and prepare for that. We have to help them make the transition from the industrial economy to the information technology. We have to recognize that it is there. We can't continue to patch it together like a quilt. Now we can admire our forefathers for surviving out there in this tough agriculture environment and putting those quilts together, but we are patching it together again. We go home and they say, income tax, no; sales tax, yes, no, and we're torn back and forth, but we need to take a good look at that