

right now or before we're done here during this session, that wet behind my ears will roll down my back and settle in the seat of my pants, but I'm going to agree with you this time. I think that what we're seeing is, again, the fireman's first principle, being that when we go to cut the budget in the small towns and the cities, the first thing that happens is that let the firemen go where we talk about letting the firemen go. So your house is going to burn down and there is not much you can do about that so we don't want to reduce taxes and we don't want to let things go. And I've only been here a short while, approximately 15 months. Of that 15 months I have spent nine in session because of three special sessions that I've served in to date and I have seen a lot of budget cutting that has been done in that time. And I see the University being somewhat of a sacred cow and I'm affected by that. Senator Schmit talked about some people not being able to justify how they voted. Well, I, earlier this morning, voted to support the reduction, or an increase as Senator Schmit put it, to the state colleges and I don't have any state colleges in my district, but I feel that those colleges are the ones that are going to be hurt the most. Those are the ones that are in the rural districts. I think that Omaha and Lincoln can better support the 3 percent cut and I intend to support that. I am affected by the University of Nebraska at Omaha. And it's tough for me because I see UN-O as being more heavily affected by the 3 percent cut than UN-L. Their General Fund appropriation is a greater percentage of their budget, almost 10 percent, than Lincoln's. Senator Warner started out this morning by saying that basically it was the consciences of the members of the Appropriations Committee that led them to look at the 2 percent cut and I don't mean this in a bad way and I guess right now I can feel the wet behind my ears traveling down my back, but I just wondered what happened to the consciences of...or where the collective consciences of the Appropriations Committee members were when they looked at the Department of Roads and the \$1,500 cut that they recommended there, the Department of Agriculture and the 5.6 percent cut that they recommended there. I think that agriculture is very important to our state. It's very important, Senator Wesely, in bringing us out of our economic slump, as well as the Department of Labor and the 4.6 percent cut there, the Department of Economic Development and the 20 percent cut there. I think all these are very important to the economy of our state, but I'm not sure that one is that much greater than the