

four of those four minutes to Senator Schmit at this point.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right.

SENATOR VICKERS: And then reserve the right to have the last minute, if you will, please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, Senator Schmit, I will warn you at one minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Vickers. I don't know if I need that much time or not, but I think that we ought to recognize that exactly what has happened will continue to happen. There is an advantage, I guess, in having everything that you...not everything but a large portion of that which you have valued being taken out of the budget early in the game, you don't need to worry about what is going to happen to it or if it is going to be sliced away or peeled away or chopped away. I think that it is very, very difficult, we all know, to measure the relative value of the various expenditures and I recognize and appreciate the job the Appropriations Committee has to do. But any time that you begin to do anything other than a straight, even cut then you begin to assess and evaluate and appraise and prioritize. Once you have done that, I am not at all ashamed or abashed to say here that it is not done upon the basis of that which is most valuable. It is based upon how do you put together 25 votes. Obviously, the community colleges do not have those votes. We hear many times the importance of various areas of education. Each particular area can make its own argument for its importance. I think that we have to recognize, and it was kind of interesting, Senator Higgins thought that perhaps the University ought to be penalized for having to teach remedial courses. Maybe that is a good argument, Senator Higgins, for giving more education...more money to elementary education. It is going to be a most interesting situation that we find ourselves in as we progress along this road. When January comes it is going to be extremely interesting to see what happens because by that time the shoe is really going to pinch and by that time some individuals will begin to squeal. They are going to look back at the special session and say, but I gave you a vote way back there and they will say, certainly you didn't trade. No. Oh, yes. No, I didn't make a deal but I thought and I hoped and I prayed. Well, let me tell you, you better learn a lot of prayers because it is going