

obligation to keep our own feet to the fire until the task be done. That task sometimes is hard, and sometimes it is painful to people at the other end of the stick, but that is part of what government is all about. If only Congress had the same kind of backbone this Legislature does to work for a balanced budget, if only Congress had the same kind of backbone this Legislature does to increase tax rates...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...when necessary, we wouldn't be carrying the kind of deficit we are carrying today, we wouldn't be carrying the kind of unfavorable balance of trade we are carrying today, we wouldn't be watching our basic industries go down the tube as we are watching them go down today. But they don't have the backbone, but you and I do. We are going to stick to the course, going to do the job. I'm going to vote against this amendment. I think the Appropriations Committee has done a job, I think it's done a good job, it's a responsible job, it's a painful job, it's prudent, it's wise, it has to be done.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please. Then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. It is very tempting for me to vote against Senator Sieck's amendment. The last time I ran for reelection I called the Director of Mental Retardation and I asked, any chance of getting any volunteers to work in my campaign? My opponent has an entire congregation working for him. And I was told, no, we are a nonprofit organization, we are not allowed to do that. And I said, I'm not talking about the people that work in the offices, I'm talking about the parents of the mentally retarded who have written me so many letters of appreciation because I stand up here year after year and fight for them. I doubt if there are 25 in my entire district who have mentally retarded children. So, it would be very tempting to me, since no one, no parents of the mentally retarded volunteered to help me to get reelected so I could continue to help their children. It would be sweet vengeance, wouldn't it, but it wouldn't be morally right. We can save so many millions of dollars if we don't fund, or if we cut this program. I guess that the bottom line in government is money. There is no other program that should be cut that much, I guess. The Department of Administrative Services fired 12 mentally retarded that used to clean the offices in the Legislature, said