

that what we end up doing with budgets is putting money in on the end of the process instead of at the beginning, that we do not place resources perhaps in an early stage to prevent problems. In fact, we have to put the resources in at the end to try and resolve problems and it would be my hope over time that we try and redirect resources into prevention whether that be in child abuse, child welfare, family issues, whether it be in health care or any number of other subjects dealing with Health and Human Services. We tend to focus so much on the end problem and not enough at the early prevention that would be money better spent. These are just a few concepts. I think overall, obviously I'm much better disposed to this legislation with the fact that we don't have the massive budget cuts that were originally envisioned. These cuts are much more manageable and there is some ray of hope in this dark cloud that's hanging over Nebraska with the budget. But nevertheless, I think there is not enough time now to respond to some of these concerns. I merely raise them to alert you that I'm going to plan to look at some of these on Select File and I assume all of us are. This is an opening salvo, the opening discussion on the budget and further time will be taken on it later, but I do have a few of those concerns and others that hopefully will be addressed on Select File.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit, you're next.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President, I'm going to offer an amendment in just a little while to remove from this appropriation budget the amount of money that is necessary for the pursuit of the lawsuit between Nebraska and Wyoming. I'm sorry I have not had a chance to visit with anyone about this. I just want to say this, that the Natural Resources Committee met a number of times and it has continued to keep those conversations open and Senator Rod Johnson has pursued this to determine whether or not it is possible to negotiate the differences that exist between Nebraska and Wyoming on the Deer Creek project. We've been given every reason to believe in meetings that this committee had with the Wyoming Select Committee on Water that the issue could be resolved amicably. The Governor of Wyoming and the Governor of Nebraska have indicated that they are interested in resolving it and to make a long story short, the last time we were in Wyoming Mike Jess told the committee that he had proposed that Wyoming build Deer Creek and that the Indian Lakes be allowed to be filled as they have been since about, I think, 1904. And he had received no