

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, members, I, too, am one of those Appropriations Committee members, and so felt like I needed to add a few comments as to how we'd been spending our time so far this year. Serving on Appropriations Committee has, I think, been a very rewarding, though sometimes frustrating experience. And what I would just like to do is to share a few things maybe with the body and some thoughts that they might consider. And, Senator Chambers, I want to tell you, having worked with Senator Bernard-Stevens, there would be a time probably where he might kick that crutch out from someone, depending upon who he was, but it wouldn't be done very often. If you look at the P2 budget I would also say that I think there is not a project on there that's not a noble project. And as we go through and if we would take them one by one, I could give you lots of reasons, lots of reasons to fund every single one of them. But I think what we have to do is to stand back and look at the total picture. And that's basically, I think, what Appropriations Committee has been doing so far this year. As you well know, we've gone through a 5 percent reduction, a 2.5, we have put things in, we have put things out, we have tried to prioritize, rearrange, tried to do the best overall job I feel that we could do for the state, that's not to say it's a perfect job or that we shouldn't have done it better, or that we shouldn't have done it differently. But to take an item, one by one, and try to put it back in not knowing how it will affect someone else on down the line, where it will shift, how it will come out on the bottom line is something that I think we need to consider very, very carefully. One at a time I can tell you that the amendment that's up there, do I want to see it supported? Of course, I do. Will I? No, because we can do that with every one of these programs. Every one of them deserve to be funded. And the other thing that I would ask you to do is to look at the bottom line on that green sheet, recognizing that when we come back the next biennium we are already going to be looking at reductions in the budget again of \$43 million. Anything that we add in on the P2 budget will increase that \$43 million figure. So when you're considering the amendments to LB 330 would you just please look at the total picture, how it will affect other agencies in the state, how it will affect the bottom line, and where it is you want to be when we do adjourn on June the 8th.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Chambers.