

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, with all due respect to what Senator Hillman said about the difficult job that the Appropriations Committee has in arriving at the decisions that they take, and I can appreciate how difficult it might be, all they do is present their suggestions to the rest of us. We, base on our philosophy, our view of what our job is as legislators, will look at those recommendations and determine whether or not we will agree with them. The Appropriations Committee, Senator Hillman, is something like the gods and goddesses on Mount Olympus. When they're very high and very far from the terrain, mountains below them tend to flatten so that they look like plains. The river might look just like a little ribbon instead of water in a deep gorge. And everything is laid out in a flat panorama, and nothing looks different from anything else. Those people, nevertheless, who have to labor on this mortal plane, don't have the luxury of looking down from Mount Olympus and having all of the differences fade away and everything looks the same. We are compelled to come face to face with the problems that people must contend with. We are compelled to be aware of the fact that there are families and individuals who cannot, no matter how they try, solve the problems they're confronted with. Now, although at least one person in this Legislature thinks I have god-like powers, the proof that I don't is that I cannot reach out, which if I had that power I would do, and say heal, and every crippled child would be whole, every blind person would see, every stammerers tongue would be loosed, there would not be an ill person in a hospital, none of those things would happen. But unfortunately Senator Witek has attributed to me powers that I don't have or that I choose not to exercise at this time. The closest that I can come to trying to alleviate some of the misery that I see is to vote in favor of those expenditures that move in that direction. I know there are other proposals that will come before us which some senators will try to obtain funding for. And if I agree with them, I will vote for them. My philosophy is not Senator Coordsen's, by saying, cut everybody else's program, including our ability to function as an efficient Legislature. I say consider raising taxes. That is not something that is sinful. That is not something prohibited to this Legislature, as a matter of fact the power to raise taxes was given to the Legislature so that we could provide the revenue necessary to fund the programs that we think are required. I think this is a program that we should not turn our back on. I offer you Tiny Tim, or Scrooge. I'm going to vote for Tiny Tim. And it takes a tiny amount to do that. I hope