

2-21-2017

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on Tuesday, Feb. 21, after the Legislature took a four-day break from the session. I was able to make it back to Sublette County for a day and a half before my return to Cheyenne. I felt a little like the ground hog who came up out of his hole, saw the snow drifts, and went back down the hole to Cheyenne.

Today, the House and Senate Appropriations Conference Committee met to discuss differences between our respective versions of the budget. We spent a couple hours reviewing the different amendments to the budget, and we heard from staff about what would happen if we could not reach agreement on a Supplemental Budget. If we don't reach an agreement, then the Governor has free rein to make cuts as he sees fit.

The conference committee agreed to accept two minor amendments that were nearly identical, which both the House and the Senate had passed during the budget debates. The next proposal came from the House. It would have accepted all Senate positions and conceded all House positions, except the Senate's position to cut K12 education by \$91.5 million and state worker's pay by 4 percent. This motion, if adopted, would have eliminated the cut to K12 education and state workers' pay. The Senate declined the House's motion, and we will meet again tomorrow.

Good night for now.