

March 10, 1978

instances that we were trying to hold a \$5.7 million for A bills and that figure was arrived at very arbitrarily by using the highest amount of A bills that had been enacted during the last three years. But in order to cover items which the majority of the Appropriations Committee felt were desirable and appropriate to add to the appropriation bills themselves, that amount was reduced to \$4.7 million. Below that is some things that I arbitrarily added which I have assumed the Legislature may wish to have enacted, claims against the state of \$31,000. That we probably have no choice about. LB 315, the veterans aid transfer, as you recall on numerous occasions, we indicated that if that bill was enacted, it would require general fund appropriation of \$500,000. The appropriation bills for the Veterans Home at Grand Island currently in our proposed recommended budget to you as well as in the Governor's recommended budget used that cash funds for operating money, and if it is indeed to be set aside and pigeonholed and untouched, it would need to be...we would need an increase of \$500,000 in operating money there. We also, I assume that the Veterans Trust Fund would be increased by at least \$1 million. The committee has amended the bill out at that level. It was introduced at \$2 million but my assumption is that that will be enacted for sure. The other one is an additional deficit which we were notified of as yesterday of \$500,000 for the Department of Welfare. Originally, they had indicated \$750,000 deficit of general fund money with the indication that it would be revised. The communication received yesterday indicated that on March 13th they would finalize that figure as well as provide us with the detail. The next item, as I have explained a number of times, the Appropriation Committee do not act, do not disapprove, but they did not act on the request for additional funds for water study and the reason we did not was that, at least I had read in the paper where the Public Works Committee was meeting with the Natural Resource Commission and was aware of some meetings and we felt that it was appropriate just to pass over it pending the recommendations of the committee that has worked primarily with that as to what level of funding was available. You will see then that there is approximately \$2.5 million available assuming these other things occur which is almost equal just to the amount of A bills that are on Final Reading today, and of course, it is not adequate to pick up those on Select File. Also I should point out that on the long sheet, there is an indication that \$82 million of A bills are on General File or are on the Board at some point, including General File. However, \$60 million of that is related to state aid to schools but by excluding that there would still be \$22 million of A bills on the Board at some location, and in order to cover that total amount of appropriation, you would have to look at the \$4.7 million. So you can see, as we have indicated from the beginning, I think that all of us understood from the beginning, that to stay within existing tax rates meant some very tight budgeting and the probability of any expanded or new programs being approved within existing rates would be very difficult if not impossible. I would be glad to answer any question if anyone has one relative to the information here or you are free, of course, to go down and visit with the staff for any detail that you want in addition to what I can provide on the floor.

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