

March 17, 1978

PRESIDENT: We take up now the motion by Senator Warner regarding the bracketing of A bills. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm offering the motion I guess in part to provide an opportunity to review with you briefly again the status of our financial report but also I'm offering the motion that perhaps it might make it easier to consider some of the pending legislation that carries appropriations. What the motion does is the same thing that was offered before holding all bills on Final Reading having an impact on the general fund until March 10th at which time I had anticipated and the budget bills of course were out and by doing that it would appear that the members would have the opportunity of knowing as they voted on additional general fund appropriations what the possible impact would be. I become somewhat concerned, if you look on the back of the agenda, you'll see there is only 3.9 million dollars available to stay within the existing rates and preserve the 5% reserve. I know that there is in addition to that at least a \$500,000 deficit that will be coming in as we indicated today from Welfare which we will have no choice. There's another \$500,000 or \$600,000 pending in the Committee which will no doubt, all of it will not be recommended to you but these are additional requests which have come to our attention since the printing of the bill. A couple of them are large items and several of them are small but those two items alone is another million, getting this down to less than about \$2,000,000 or between 2 and 3,000,000 that would be available for any other amendments that might be proposed on the general appropriation bills or for the funding of a variety of A bills that might be enacted. If you'll look at the bottom of the sheet it indicates \$86,000,000 of general fund appropriation is now in General File or beyond. \$60,000,000 of that is related to state aid to education, a bill which I have but I don't anticipate that being enacted in that form. So there is at least \$26,000,000 however, of potential funding there in a variety of areas. So I'm renewing the motion then to again bracket the bills having those general fund impact so in the event we do decide, or the Legislature as a whole decides to appropriate funds in addition to those available within the existing rates, that the time sequence of those appropriations will at least follow the appropriations for ongoing state government. I can understand and I have supported in the past legislation which affected an increase in rates but it was clear that that was the vote, or the bill, or the legislation that did affect the rates. I think it would be exceedingly unfortunate if we pass a great number of A bills or other general fund appropriations before the general appropriation bills will be completed with so that we end up with the appearance at least that the operation of ongoing state government is the one that might affect the rates. Certainly that would be a misfortune and also I think if you have to go out and explain why the rates are increased, it's much easier and much more understandable if you're going to explain it because of certain increase in certain aid programs or something of that nature which would be clearly the case if these bills follow the appropriation bills. The bills that are included in the motion include the deficiency bill, the four or five bills that relate specifically to the general fund operations of state government plus the million dollars for the veteran aid fund and those are the ones which I felt in all probability would be passed regardless. In addition to the \$500,000 welfare and the the 5 to \$600,000 of pending amendments

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