

SENATOR LAMB: Well, every year about this time we have a deficiency appropriation and I always have qualms about deficiency appropriations. I know some of them are necessary but I think we are getting into the habit of letting some of these state agencies have more or less of a blank check, come back to the Legislature and say, hey, we had a little problem there and we didn't plan for it and so now we need a little bit more money. So while our budget was not adequate last year, we have got this deficiency and we need to have it corrected. I think we, as a whole, and particularly the Appropriations Committee, needs to take a strong look at deficiency appropriations because this is certainly an area where state agencies need to be held accountable. We cannot let them continue to come in here with big deficiency appropriations beyond their regular budget.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. Anyone else who wishes to speak on...yes, Senator Haberman, you have a question.

SENATOR HABERMAN: May I ask a question of Senator Warner, please. Senator Warner, I notice on the green sheet that you passed is now showing the general fund financial status and it showed that on LB 721 there was a deficiency appropriation of \$7,510,000. What is the deficiency appropriation...and this is 721, okay that is what we are trying to make up then is the \$7,510,000. Is that correct?

SENATOR WARNER: That is the general fund amount contained in the bill, yes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Do you have any idea what it was last year?

SENATOR WARNER: About the same. I don't recall specifically, but I can check it, but the deficiency appropriations have been running in that area for several years. One of the major reasons is that we have two or three programs, such as Special Ed and wards of the court that are reimbursement after the fact. As a matter of fact, usually this goes back at least two years, occasionally three, because you can't necessarily anticipate what is going to be required next year for those activities and so you end up making a deficiency when a known cost is there. We could appropriate a larger amount on a guess ahead, but