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LB 789

SENATOR GOODRICH: I have not checked with Senator Warner as to how he is providing for this but the usual procedure is that the Budget Committee has a list of the A bills and categorizes them as those that are likely to pass, those that are not likely to pass and those that are the in between and they usually provide for those that are likely to pass and once this advances they will certainly start providing for it, is that right?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, yes, Senator Warner is here. Could I ask Senator Warner a question if I may.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner, will you respond?

SENATOR WARNER: Go ahead.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Warner, you heard my question to Senator Goodrich and I am assuming you did, would you respond to that. Am I assuming then that the \$4 million new dollars would be that which the Appropriations Committee in their minds at this point at least have for availability for floor, is that right?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Carstens, the...yes and no. Let me say how I understand it. If the body adopts the philosophy that we have used in the Appropriations Committee that the increase in the overall budget for state operations only, exclusive of any major aid program for local government, should be around the seven percent figure which is what we have adopted, on that basis we have within that percentage which also is within available receipts as was projected at the November meeting of the Board of Equalization, within those criteria there is \$8.7 million undesignated at this point for a variety of things including any substantial increase in homestead exemption over and above \$29 million, aid programs, A bills, this \$4.5 million, you know, a variety of options. The guide that we have traditionally used is one percent of the total appropriation and this year we allowed a higher percentage but it was primarily in recognition that we needed to have a little extra because we've assumed that the homestead exemption was going to be up something over what was distributed this year. So the answer is, yes, there is \$8.7 million of which \$4.5 million could go for this purpose. That means there is \$4.5 million of other purposes, whatever they might be, that could not be done.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, now that was based on projections in