

Small agencies frequently do not have have vacancy savings. Secondly, we take vacancy...assumed vacancy savings into account in large agencies and provide some recognition of that fact in arriving at the budget, in fact it is submitted that way when their budget request is made way back in the summer before the...before any review has been made whatsoever. In passing I notice with interest that the amendments leave out the bills affecting senator salaries and constitutional officer's salaries but I assume that could be remedied if the concept wishes to be picked up. The main problem is two. One is the fact that on 561, which is the aid bill, the 2½% amounts to a little over nine million dollars. So that means that you are redistributing the aid between those governmental subdivisions and individuals only. You want to think carefully about some of those distributions or reductions that will occur. There are a number of things in the A bill that are statutory. For example the law says that the governmental subdivision fund shall have 12.6 million dollars appropriated. Now if you cut the budget by 2½%, I'm not sure that you can. . . .

PRESIDENT: One minute Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: But, nevertheless that is a very practical problem. You cut some of these other programs which are by statute, such as special ed, wards of the court, homestead exemption, the veterinary contracts for students going out of the state. If you cut some of those all you will do is automatically provide a deficit next year cause the law states what will be funded by the state precisely. You do not make a reduction in any sense of the word. You have another problem where there are programs such as in aging where the federal requirement is for a 5% hard match, dollar match for a variety of the programs for the aging, primarily dealing with meals on wheels and similar programs. All that is in the budget is that minimum of 5%. You cut that and you automatically in those cases have the 95% reduction in the...85% reduction in the federal funds that are comparable to what that 5% would provide, 10% of it is raised in kind. I do not make these arguments to attempt to say that this is impossible or to create doubt in what Senator DeCamp is trying to do, I merely tell you that there are exceedingly complicated with across the board budgets. I know that they sound well. I can well recall the senator who sat here in this body for a number of years and traditionally made that argument each session. It was always interesting to me that he always voted for every amendment to increase and he came in with his one or two percent as I recall across the board reduction and it was obvious. . . .