

May 29, 1981

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the retarded.

PRESIDENT: Okay, then that is it. Then everybody is... then we don't need to do it because that is all that have to speak. Senator Schmit, you may close.

SENATOR SCHMIT: In closing I want to call your attention to the figures that came off the back of the agenda on May 28th. Anticipated revenue, \$737,073,845. '81-'82 appropriations to date, \$734,382,672. The General Fund impact of the bills on E & R reading, \$1,955,000. Total anticipated expense, \$736,338,661. Excess of revenue over anticipated expense, \$735,184. Additional expense that would be committed with the override, \$777,258. That is cutting it within about \$40,000. If you can handle three-quarters of a billion dollars and come within \$40,000, you are cutting a fine hog right down the middle in the words of this farmer. I just want to tell you this, we hear a lot of conversation and one of the first speeches I made on this floor this session...Mr. President, if my Speaker would calm the people down, I wish they would listen. They haven't listened to me very often this session and I hate to go out in the same tone. I think it is important that we recognize...that we recognize very clearly what I said at the start of this session, that the Appropriation Committee has an awesome task and they do the job remarkably well with a few exceptions, but on the whole we get very little opportunity to spend any money on the floor of this Legislature. Oh, we get chastised a lot, and we get criticized a lot, and we get blamed for the overrides and we get blamed for raising the budget and busting the budget and tax increases. But the amount of money that the forty of us spend on this floor is minuscule. I want to point out that and as Senator Johnson pointed out, and Senator Sieck has pointed out, there is a million seven hundred thousand dollars of cigarette tax money coming in from this body that is not going to go to cancer research. It was designated there by Senator Cullan and several others, Senator Johnson, but it is not going there, it's going to the General Fund. We should have raised the tax a nickel. We discussed it. I had a bill that didn't get out of Public Works Committee with which I expected to raise it another four cents, but it never got out of committee. That should be and if no one else will do it, that will be the first order of business January, 1982, God willing I am alive and back here to increase that cigarette tax another four cents. But in the meantime I believe it is imperative that we override this veto. I want to tell you one little story about an instance that occurred that