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thing I can say is that this level of appropriation will meet what is still current projected revenue as far as the Department of Revenue is concerned. They have not decreased the \$690,000,000 that we were told on March 10th as anticipated new receipts. Everything that we have been told to date will fit within this appropriation. Now that does not preclude the fact that, of course, the sales tax will have to go up June 1 but that is not affected one way or the other by this budget. That is a current fiscal year shortfall.

SENATOR NEWELL: Okay, thank you, Senator Warner. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Warner or the Appropriations Committee's amendment. I will support it in its entirety although I would like to tell some of the folks back home that there is a couple three issues here that I would have liked to have not voted for but the way it was packaged the choices are not...there is not the opportunity to do that. And also because I think because of the great fiscal crisis we find ourselves in, and I think Senator Warner made it very clear, that we are still expecting a sales tax increase...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR NEWELL: ...or that is at least calculable in terms of the revenue shortfalls that we have had due to the recession that we are going through, but I think that of the cuts this is probably the preferable way to go. If we are going to reduce the general fund appropriations by \$9 million, this is probably the more scholarly and thought out way to do it and I would encourage this body to support it. I think it is better, a much preferable thing than Senator Peterson offered which would be major cuts in state employees salary. This spreads out the pain to many different departments including the Legislature, and with that in mind, I would hope this body would accept the Appropriations Committee's report.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch. Senator Lamb. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Warner, a question if I may, back on the last page of your blue sheet I just wanted you to explain, if you could, a little more what the social security contributions fund is. We are taking \$1 million out of that. Social security as you are aware is a very sensitive item, just the words themselves, and it should be a sensitive item since obviously a great