

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: And it's going to keep coming and it's going to keep coming and it's going to be coming and all of a sudden some time down the road, not too far off, our measly little \$70 million over the Governor's measly little \$150 million over last year's budget is going to be some real money.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Warner, please, followed by Senator Hall. Senator Warner, would you care to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Hannibal, I think, has outlined the committee positions very well. I would make one other comment and it's not unusual for agencies who are also in the capacity of collecting some revenue through that agency to somehow or other make the case that because the collection is there that that then is the possession of the agency or at least in part and that frequently comes up with this agency. If we applied the same thing to some of the other agencies, such as the Public Service Commission and others who also are in the same capacity, why you would have substantial budgets beyond which could be justified. So, as a matter of fact, this agency was totally General Fund, virtually totally for a number of years until we got into difficulties and had the across-the-board cuts. And when those occurred then there was legislation enacted that placed some of the funds that were collected as Cash Funds because by doing that they could avoid the across-the-board cuts that we were making with General Fund agencies when it became necessary and escape, in effect, the cuts and that was the practical purpose the legislation was enacted but that was the practical purpose of it. So the argument of...as a percent of what is collected, if you apply that to other agencies in a like situation, it would become very difficult. But, finally, certainly the addition of the judge and support staff last year was meant to help relieve their backlog, at least one additional person is meant to help reduce their backlog and it seems to me that we ought to at least begin to see what is happening from those additional appropriations and authorizations over the last two years before we continue to add more. Then, finally, on the capital improvements, as has been indicated, and it was...there is always a variety of requests from a variety of agencies, you try to do some portion of them if you can and in this case there was \$13,000 of