

SENATOR LANGFORD: This agency has been funded above the level that they had last year. They have an increase. It may be just 3 percent but when you have this much money 3 percent isn't too shabby. Please, ladies and gentlemen, please, would you look at your green sheets and see what you are doing on this floor. These people are already funded very well and I ask you to think about what you are doing. When we get to the end of this process we may have to come back and cut some of these funds out. So when you get ready to vote on each of these increases think about it. Think about what your interests are because by the time we get through everyone has an interest and there's not going to be money enough for everything. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, obviously, I'm not going to stand up here and argue against doing good things, as I think I may echo some of the things that Senator Hannibal said. But when these issues, all of which are worthwhile, come before the Appropriations Committee, we, typically, find ourselves in a position of weighing several hundred or maybe several thousand good ideas, some of them are more expensive than others. And we are...it's at that point right now where I think people are becoming fatigued, not only in the committee but out of the committee, with the budget debate and sometimes it's easier just to say yes to a good idea rather than trying to carefully craft some kind of budget bill that sets some priorities. And I would caution you that while this is yet another good idea, as Senator Hannibal said, there are a great many good ideas that aren't in this budget and I regret that. I would like to be able to say yes to everybody. But we don't, we draw the unpleasant task of saying no to an awful lot of people with an awful lot of good ideas. And I think what we're happening...what is happening to us right now if you...if you're not...if you're starting to kind of drift away and not pay attention to this whole process, let me remind you that on the back of the green sheet every day now is the page labeled General Fund Financial Status. And given the decisions that we're making here and the desire to do property tax relief and then if you would just go down this list of bills here that lay on Final Reading or Select File, every penny that you put towards something else, I think, now could reasonably be said to perhaps enter into a Governor's decision about what she might or might not veto, as we're obviously passing along that option to the Governor. My choice is to pick