

before I tell you what it is, maybe I should tell you why it is. This reflects my frustration with what I read in this blue pamphlet that the Appropriations Committee has put on our desks, and it talks about, on page 2, about the problems that are going to be...the financial problems the state is going to be in, in the future. It says, during the current biennium with lower than average revenue growth, the spending levels are sustained by a 77.2 million dollar draw down of the General Fund balance to approximately minimum reserve levels. This leaves a projected \$20 million shortfall between ongoing revenues and ongoing spending at the end of fiscal year '92-93. In the following biennium, with no excess balance to draw from, revenues and spending have to match. The \$20 million gap carried forward from fiscal year '93 is covered by projected above-growth revenue growth used for planning purposes. Normal growth in both fiscal year '94 and '95 will fund a continuation budget. However, this does not leave any source of revenues to annualize the fiscal year '93 deficits or an additional decline in the federal Medicaid match rate. For this reason, there is a projected \$47 million shortfall over the two years of the next biennium requiring approximately \$23.6 million in budget cuts, revenue increases, or some combination in fiscal year '94 in order to meet the minimum 3 percent reserve. See, I hate to leave this body, when I am gone from this body, you people will say and other people will say, look what you did, Howard, you left the state in a deficiency situation. So I was scrambling around to look at the provisions of 1022 to see what could be cut out of it, and I have a whole list, and from that list I selected one, which I thought might be the least objectionable to some people, and that is to remove the part that provides funding for library automation; \$239,000 would be cut from the budget for this fiscal year. There would be \$280,000 for fiscal year '93-94, and \$238,000 in '94-95, a total of about \$800 million (sic) that this project will cost. Now I am fully prepared to...800,000, did I misspeak. I am fully prepared to, I see Sonny up here has his light on in the front row. I know I am going to be bashed from that end. Also, I have had a note from a lobbyist, I am going to be bashed from there. Senator Robak has been over here, but look at the situation. We are initiating a new program which is going to cost \$800,000 over three years for library automation. Yes, I understand that some private funding could be lost if we don't do this. Some private funding could be lost. That doesn't mean it will be lost because I am sure if this generous donor wants to provide the private money for this, or a similar project, a way can be found