

would have to do that. We would have to find a way because that is the law. And if we didn't, obviously we'd be open for lawsuits and what have you so obviously we will find a way to do that. We've already given the state's promise on that matter. So that's not the issue in question. The issue of question is do you want to set a policy that just automatically in the future transfers money that is outside of the appropriations process? And I think that would be dangerous. I could see the amendment coming now. I would love to offer an amendment to put five, whatever, million dollars into the School Equalization Fund and have it transferred from the General Fund immediately so that it would never, ever be open for discussion on the appropriation side. True, somebody could bring a bill to try to change the law that we did, but that's a lot different than having the Appropriations Committee itself look at the situation and determine about the numbers of dollars expended based on the current situation. If the amendment that I will put forward passes, it does not mean that anything that we've agreed on in 377 is not going to happen. In fact, what would happen, and I want to emphasize this, is if you make it for it's a general appropriation and it has to be looked at, you don't have to come back with a bill asking for dollars two years from now to be put in on the Appropriations Committee. It would be because the intent of the Legislature would be in those years that those dollars would be put in. So on their sheets, on their fiscal sheets when they put in the outlying years the cost, those costs would be there. They would be there. They would show as a General Fund expenditure, but it would be certainly open for the Appropriations Committee and the Legislature that if we're short \$300 million or we're short \$150 million, or even if we have a surplus of \$150 million, that they would be able to in due course look at that, add monies, take monies away, but we all understand that if monies are taken away we have to pay from somewhere. That is the process that we must follow. My sense is there is an underlying fear that's beginning to develop that is unfounded. The fear I think is, jimminy Christmas, what happens now if we have an A bill with 377? Is it possible that 377 could then pass on Final Reading but they jump all over the A bill and there's no dollars. Is that a possibility? Of course. On any A bill that's a possibility, but to no one that I have talked to on the urban side or on the rural side has there been any question that 377 was going to be fine and that it would move on with the A bill. Now if we want to go ahead and continue this distrust, that's fine, but it's not good for this body to do, there's no foundation for that mistrust on