

absolutely correct, we are in this bill. If we don't do the \$700,000, we'll be dealing with and hurting real people. But I'd also like to ask Senator Brashear a question, if would be so inclined to answer. On the first go-round on the Appropriations Committee, how many dollars did the committee actually cut out of the budget?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I don't recall off the top of my head.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Would it be fair to say...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I don't have any of my materials here.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Would it be fair to say that when you started the year, we were in a deficit situation, but not by much, but when we entered the first go-round we had about \$172 million surplus after the cuts were taken?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I think it was something like that. I...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, I think it's pretty close and my point being, thank you, Senator Brashear, my point being that if we're talking about real people, every time we make a cut whether it's in an agency program, whether it's reducing funding for whatever program, people lose their jobs. There was a \$172 million surplus in the Appropriations Committee budget. They went back and put a lot of that back in. I suspect they couldn't put it all back in so some of it now has gone into the cash reserve for the old rainy day argument that we'll be talking about later on on the floor, but the point is everything we do affects people's jobs and on the one hand the committee felt comfortable enough affecting a lot of people, way more than what this bill would do, jobs on the cutting, and my point is not against the Appropriations Committee because I think they are proper in what they did. And again, I think the process that they used was a proper one, but the point being, let's don't put the, as this sounds very cruel, but we have to be honest, every time we make a budget cut, we are going to be affecting jobs of people. Senator Chambers is absolutely correct. If the only way a Legislature can send a message to agencies and people not to do what they're doing is to say, no. Because what we're hearing today is, we have no choice, we're dealing with real people. But next time this happens, the same thing will come about. Yes, we could say no, but we're