

something like that, and 490 million of that we couldn't touch. It was a special session, there was no legislation introduced to repeal programs. And there was only supposed to be a 3 percent cut, that sounded like nothing, but it was 240 million was all that we could address. So that was a 10 percent cut, and even some of those programs you couldn't cut, you had to look for things to completely abolish, but you were really strapped. So if we're going to ask the Appropriations Committee to come back with recommendations and giving them the tools to do the job, and the tool that you...the only tool I know, and I have an Attorney General's Opinion says that this is constitutional. It was passed in Kentucky in the middle eighties, their Supreme Court held it up in Kentucky, I don't know if that would necessarily hold here, but in any event what the motion says, it would suggest that the Appropriations Committee, if they are going to look for ways to cut that then the Legislature is going to be willing to pass the necessary amendments to a law which permits them then to also suspend a program. Now this is not a minor amendment, it's not a minor statute change. In '87 it got to Select File and it was summarily handled with a motion of indefinite postponement. But it's the kind of tool that you need or the Appropriations Committee needs in a short-run, in a short time period, because there just simply is not sufficient time to do the kinds of things that probably ought to be done, to go back, for all of us to go back and look for programs that might be suspended or repealed rather by law through our appropriate committee. But it does allow them to have the same flexibility that the Governor has. And I'm willing to give that authority to them. And so the motion that is offered suggests that it would be the will of the body, and if the Appropriations Committee is going to do this, that we would expect legislation to be enacted this session. It would authorize them to propose suspension of mandated programs, and they would not be restricted to only making cuts of discretionary funds, which is a relatively small portion of the budget. That's the purpose of the motion and I'd urge its adoption so that the Appropriations Committee is on a level field with the Office of Governor, that they then too can recommend to this body in the short-term you don't repeal any law, the program that's still there, but because of funding difficulties it needs to be modified or restricted. I think this is one route that if we expect them to come back with recommendations this is one route that they could do, and we'd be giving them the tools to do the job that you're asking of them, which is find a way to reduce the budget. By the way, I also look at the book and I see state operations for