

deficit appropriation if they're not adequately funded. But I want you to look at the bottom line on 34, the committee recommendations. Last year state aid was a billion thirty-four, this year it's a billion eighty, or the first fiscal year is a billion eighty, '96-97 is a billion one five, that represents about almost 60 percent of our budget is aid. So in reaction to Senator Warner's amendment, if we were to change anything at this point without his amendment we really only have 40 percent of the budget to look at, unless we get into state aid in various forms. And so with his amendment it does let us get back into the whole aid picture, takes away some of the mandates. It's not universally true, but some of the mandates would be in that so we could get into the billion dollars. The other point I want to make is that if you do some of these you're going to either raise tuition. If you take some of these cuts out of aid you're either going to raise tuition somewhere, or you're going to raise property tax somewhere else. That's why I've used the term all along that what we have is a responsible budget because it lets the aid continue to flow to schools, counties, special ed at this point, although there is a bill to modify special ed, to reduce the growth by half, but it does continue the money to NRDs, it continues it to state aid to education, it continues the state help to teachers salaries and on an on. You can go down the list on page 33 and 34 yourself and see where they're at. I don't want to mislead you and say that all of these are mandates, because they're not, some of those are not, but many of them are, or that's where we'll have to make some cuts if we go back through the budget. We had a meeting with the Appropriations Committee. I can't serious...we did not take necessarily...

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...a vote and say...but I will say the sense of the committee is at this point if the body wants to do this and bracket, we would accept that. We will either vote no, or we will not vote. Many of the committee members can make their own statement on this issue. It's a valid thing to discuss. We have spent 70 days on the budget, for us to go in and make some hurried cuts will be somewhat demanding. I will say that it is going to be more painful than many will first suspect. If we were to cut it to say 4 percent it would be about \$30 million. And it does take off many of the options that I think many of us