

distribution formulas. We are in the process of reducing the cap a little bit on expenditures of local government. I think it's appropriate that we, too, reduce a little bit our expenditures. I think that the Appropriations Committee, based upon the budgets that I've seen over the years, did a really good job. When it came together it was probably just a little bit high. Bear in mind, bear in mind that a significant portion of that growth is in the funds that they, under current law, are mandated to expend in all of the state programs. Appropriations Committee doesn't have very much to work with. I know certainly if you break the budget down and take out the amount of money that is allocated in the budget for the operations of all of state government outside of the state aid, outside of higher education, outside of highways, outside of major divisions, you don't have very much left as a percentage of the budget. If we're to expect the Appropriations Committee, and I don't know what the will of the body will be, to bring the total budget in line without the ability to take a look at other sections that are currently mandated, we're going to be asking them, I think, to do an impossible thing.

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: But when you're...if in fact you vote to support this it is important, and I don't disagree certainly with Senator Bernard-Stevens, is that if this budget is reduced, we cannot look at that as a way of spending more money here on the floor, we must not do that. Thirty million dollars worth of budget is Maximus, that's awfully soft money. Appropriations Committee used good judgment in putting the nearly half of that anticipated revenue into the reserve. But that that's left, and I don't know whether 30 million is the exact amount but it's in that figure, is still awfully soft money. If we don't make an allowance for that we could be back doing midterm reductions in the budget, which is very difficult for agencies of state government, universities and anyone else to live with.

SENATOR HALL: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I do support the Warner amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Bromm, your light is next.