

but I think we still have to be fiscally responsible. This first amendment deals with a relatively small amount when we start talking others, deals with a contingency fund. Now what is that? That's just some dollars setting aside, waiting there in case something happens, they spend more than is really needed. Even though this is a minor cut, I think it is important. These small ones will add up. The contingency fund, true, what's happened in the past is they come in for a deficit. For years, it hasn't been needed, so, consequently, here's a first step, a start at maybe doing a little streamlining, and utilize our powers and do what we need to do to maybe do some trimming. This is an amount of 60,050 (sic). Even though a small amount, I believe it is somewhere...a place where we can get started. In talking to a fiscal analyst, they've again done without this. There's a contingency fund in the Department of Corrections in another area. It sits there. I think these small funds you could argue that, yeah, they may use them, but we have a procedure that they can come in next year and ask for a deficit if it's really needed and then it will go appropriately on that and we can see the actual dollars that will be spent, not just putting a bunch of money in a fund and then seeing if it's spent or not. I think we have to be more responsible in terms of actually watching what is actually spent and what is not spent. When you give somebody a checkbook and there's a big dollar amount there over what is needed, generally government will find a way to spend it. So I ask for your support in this small step and hope that you will support AM1992. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Avery. You've heard the opening on the amendment to LB 392. I'm going to go through the list of lights because there are some that still left on from the last motion. Senator Maurstad, do you care to speak to the Avery amendment? He is excused, thank you. Senator Hartnett, to the Avery amendment? Doesn't appear to be on the floor. Senator Bernard-Stevens, to the Avery amendment? You are recognized.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, as we go and talk about cuts, we need to also look and make sure that they are responsible cuts and just to say that here's a contingency fund that may or may not be needed, let's go ahead and take that, you have to look a little bit closer of what it is and Senator Avery has not looked underneath what the fund is to give you the whole story. This is, as Paul Harvey