

budget once again and I want to agree with Senator Wehrbein and say once again we have provided a balanced budget. We have provided a balanced budget that allows for \$17 million of spending initiatives on the floor. There has been much in the print media about a difference between the Governor's budget and our mainline budget of \$78 million, and I would like to explain what is made up in that \$78 million. Most of the difference is in spending increase which the administration has agreed to since the time that the budget was introduced, his budget was introduced, and assumptions of spending reductions which did not advance from committee, and I will go into those in greater detail. But some of the spending increases since the Governor's budget, which the administration wanted, are things that the Appropriations Committee initiated because we...they were a part of our priorities. As an aside, Governor Nelson wanted an income tax cut of \$70 million over the biennium. If that had been adopted and all the other Governor's initiated spending had been adopted and with the changes that we've had in revenue projections and the things that the administration has agreed to in terms of spending initiatives, since his budget was introduced, we would be facing a \$17 million shortfall to the Reserve Fund. The committee was never engaged to support the income tax cut really, and the bill was obviously killed in the Revenue Committee, but it was our perception, the Appropriations Committee perception...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...that property tax was what most people were concerned with, that our highest...so our highest priority was state aid. We are about \$30 million more in state aid than the Governor is and we hope that that means a \$30 million reduction in local property taxes. Our other priorities were corrections and the courts because we know how important crime is. We are \$4.5 million more than the Governor for those issues. We were concerned about developmental disabilities. We really believe that the role of government was to provide for the most vulnerable members of our society and that was not included in the Governor's original budget, and also higher education which is the most important economic development tool. Our cuts were cuts to the base and we have one agency that we reduced by \$800,000 over the biennium as compared to the Governor. Now the things that make up the difference, there's 12 point...\$12 million for special ed which we will deal with on the floor. There is almost \$3 million for ADC to the unborn