

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...that we projected for them?

SENATOR BROWN: They collect only based on those funds that are actually recovered.

SENATOR PIRSCH: That they actually recover.

SENATOR BROWN: And so there has not been a cost to us. It's just that the revenue that we had anticipated was not forthcoming, the federal revenue.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, okay.

SENATOR BROWN: And as I said before, the Appropriations Committee and last year this Legislature, in adopting the budget, you know, took a very conservative...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Had counted on that.

SENATOR BROWN: ...approach and did the \$20 million.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yeah. Well, thank you, thank you, Senator Brown. I think I do understand it a lot better now. In other words, we did figures last year counting on money that we did not receive and money that we depended on Maximus to give us to fill in those budgets, and they did not appear. I agree, I think we need to stop spending and start building up our Cash Reserve, and it's too bad that we depend on pie in the sky to make our budgets and look like we have more money than indeed we do, and that we're spending less General Fund than indeed we are and did. Smoke and mirrors, but I will support this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Brown, would you yield to a couple questions at this point?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Yes, Senator Bernard-Stevens.