

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the body, somehow this whole thing has shifted from a discussion about whether we're going to be responsible and replenish our savings account to a discussion about the quality of the money that we're talking about here. And it is to me really interesting that the Appropriations Committee was appropriately skeptical in building into the budget a lot of federal money and not offsetting it in any sort of way with the Cash Reserve Fund transfer that we did, the \$20 million, because we were appropriately skeptical about whether Maximus would generate the kinds of revenues that were being predicted. But then we also have a lot of discussion that is inaccurate in terms of the representation about the amount of money that we were talking about. There were some very grandiose projections about what Maximus could represent, but the Appropriations Committee, in terms of setting out the budget last year, was pretty leery about using a lot of Maximus. So there was a figure tossed out in the Office of Juvenile Services of \$4 million, but what we actually budgeted in terms of federal money was \$1.5 million. And we were...we have received \$1 million of that, and so we're \$500,000 short of what we actually budgeted. So we were very careful in what we budgeted, but then we put in place this \$20 million that was to go to the Cash Reserve Fund as a further hedge against the fact that it may not be forthcoming in the way that we were grandly hoping that it might be forthcoming. And you know, we've had a lot of discussion about the possible changes on the federal level. And so far our decision has been, in this body and in the Appropriations Committee, has been to assume no changes until we see them. And we have done that in a lot of our budgets. And to start changing the rules of the game and saying, well, all things may change; well, they very well may and we may have an election that changes everything even further. We cannot anticipate the unknown. We need to deal with what we know. We have done that. We did it by being appropriately skeptical, putting \$20 million aside. It is real money, it is \$20 million of real money that we put aside so that we could put it into our Cash Reserve Fund. We are only talking about when we're going to do it. And, and so the question is not whether the money is real or not. The question is, are we going to leave it on the table, to give it an added incentive to be spent; are we going to move it into our...to our savings account part so that we can