

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President and members of the body, I will say again, I believe this is about us. It is about our decision-making. We were appropriately skeptical about Maximus last year and so we provided ourselves with a hedge. And that hedge allows us to replenish our Cash Reserve Fund as of the end of this year so that we do not have a zero balance in our Cash Reserve Fund while still keeping our minimum reserve at a very appropriate level of 3.18 percent. So we positioned ourselves by the decisions that we made in the Appropriations Committee and on the floor of the Legislature last year to respond to the fact that our Cash Reserve Fund became depleted by our revenues not...falling below projections. This is a responsible thing to do. It is acknowledging the responsibility that we already showed last year by...by setting aside the \$20 million. It is being responsible to replenish our depleted Cash Reserve Fund. It's the same money whether it's in the General Fund or whether it's in the Cash Reserve Fund; it's just going to be a little bit more difficult, but not impossible, for us to take it back out to use it. And there...if there are very good reasons to take the money out of the Cash Reserve Fund to use it, we will do that. And it's really not a problem. And we will have plenty of time to respond to it. This is only about timing. It's not whether or not the money goes into the Cash Reserve Fund, it's about when it goes into the Cash Reserve Fund. Do we do it in June of 1996 so that we can be responsible to replenish the Cash Reserve Fund because it's at zero...at 3.9 if everything goes as we assume that it will? Or do we just let things go until June of 1997 when it will happen automatically? And I would just ask us to...to take credit for the responsibility that we have already shown by making the decision last year to park the money on paper, and now we're parking it on paper in the Cash Reserve Fund so that it doesn't show up just as a diminishment of receipts but it actually shows up as being in the Cash Reserve Fund. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Call of the house please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question before the body is, shall the house go under call? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.