

79,685 dollars, I believe that to be the correct amount of money, was what we felt was needed in addition to what we could identify in savings within the council budget. The approach that Senator Bernard-Stevens has outlined to you is, in fact, an approach that might work. I certainly had that opportunity to think about that at some length before I decided to go with the amendment to 1189. As I indicated to you yesterday, the Executive Board has not made a final decision on whether to go ahead with the Chamber automation project this year. Last fall they set a tentative target date of January 1, 1997. That date is, as we speak tonight, is in fact still tentative. On balance, I thought it was more appropriate to bring the issue to the floor of the Legislature for discussion and to allow the body the opportunity to decide whether they wanted to appropriate this amount of money within 1189. We have, I suppose, several other issues that face us. There is always the possibility of a gubernatorial veto of many items, both within 1189 and those that may have been added to it since the bill has been on the floor, but that is an issue that we have to face if and when that time would come, but anything we do, of course, is subjected to that potential. Again, I think I would prefer that we maintain the course that we set yesterday that made the prospective appropriation. If the Exec Board does decide not to go ahead, certainly the money would not be utilized in this fiscal year. My...I would anticipate that the board would, but I would not, by any interpretation, want to be on record as stating on behalf of those individual members what their decision is going to be when the issue is presented to them. So, wrapping up what I'm saying, I would say that my preference would be that we don't reconsider and that we stay within the course that we set, but the option that Senator Bernard-Stevens lays out is, in fact, an option that has some potential in working if you decide to take that approach and with the understanding that if that approach is taken and the Exec Board does decide to proceed with the project that there will be some reduction in funds availability within the budget that might...we might find to be inappropriate at some time in the future and that this amount, I think, does give us the flexibility that we wouldn't be cutting other programs within the Legislative Council budget in order to make that one work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHHEM: Senator Coordsen, your light is on next. Do you have anything further? Senator Bernard-Stevens. Are you