

have heard it many times when I visited with people with what we are doing with the property tax issue. As I read the appropriation manual, the yellow one and, Senator Wehrbein, I wish you would verify this, according to the...on page 17, you can, I'll show you my copy, it says that during the year '96-97 we will go up \$82,387,172. That...according to this, that amounts to 4.6 percent. Is that correct, Senator Wehrbein? Okay, Senator Wehrbein says that is correct. I guess the question, and I think we have to get it on the record, what is our response to our constituents? And I know how the budget is put together. I know most of the increases go to the top five. I know that right at a billion dollars goes to aid to subdivisions, most of it to schools and the rest of it goes to individuals. You tell me, Senator Wehrbein, why do I tell my constituents, you are going to put the onerous on us, now what do you want me to tell them? And I know that I am putting you on the spot, but I'm just curious.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, part of, you can tell them that our operations have gone up 3 percent, our aid has gone up 5.4 percent, if you are talking only about the '96-97 year. I could go into more detail on previous years, but our cost of operations have gone up fairly modestly and, including the handout that you have, it is our state aid that has gone up quite significantly and a heavy percent of that does go back to schools in the form of aid.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Could you tell me how much that is?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: The aid?

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, in '96-97, yes, the aid, operations are up 3 percent and aid is up 5.4 percent.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And...yeah.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah, operations was up 3 percent, is that correct?