

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 13, 2000 LB 1214

so if they could get it all off. And would you be in favor of doing that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I would hesitate at this point. I'll have to think it through. I...I'll get into it a little bit on my time.

SENATOR JONES: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Wanted to, Mr. President, members, I wanted to discuss a little bit of philosophy here and one of the things that the committee had to take into...into serious consideration. First of all, this is...when you take it out of the Cash Reserve, that's taking one-time money, so we're lowering our Cash Reserve. And if you look at it carefully I...I see it's page...page 9, we're lowering our property...our Cash Reserve from \$142 million down to next year \$80 million, so we're taking out. This is one-time money. Remember, this money is not flowing in. Now, if our revenue stays strong that may not be such a major concern. So...but, first of all, this is one-time money that we're doing and so those many have felt that the important...the proper thing to do was to go property tax relief. When we did our work, the second thing is when we did that in our...when we did what we've done in this committee and, once again, I call your attention to page 9...or 11, page 11 of where much of our money is going and it's not really the proper time to go into that, but we will go into that to any amount of detail that you want to go into, but those are where that...that's where that money is going and some of those are very serious issues. But what we have to consider when we're doing that is that this is going into the base. Unlike the property tax, which is one time and coming from Cash Reserves, but it...and it's one-time relief, what we are proposing, this \$10 million, is really in many...most cases going into the base and will build, and that's the reason you see the impact out in the second and third year and actually we end up \$5 million below the line. So there is a risk in what we're doing. If you...property tax relief is one time. If you go into the spending mode, that builds to the base and you have more money spent in the out years. And so we had to give very careful