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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Stuhr, are they taking more out of that cash fund each year than goes into the cash fund?

SENATOR STUHR: I can tell you this is the 2001 report. I would assume when the 2002 comes out that it would be the same, yes, a continued depletion of their cash funds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But we don't know that to be a fact at this point.

SENATOR STUHR: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Stuhr, you continue to say that the cap has not been increased in ten years. Fees have been increased during that period of time, though, haven't they?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, they have.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, that's what I want kept in mind. Don't think and don't accept the notion that the Game and Parks Commission is operating at a fee level today that is the same as it was ten years ago. That has been allowed to become the impression presented, but Game and Parks has been raising fees right along, and they want to continue to do that, but they want to do it without oversight of the Legislature. I would like to ask Senator Stuhr another question, and the reason I'm breaking it up, I don't want Senator Stuhr to just have to stand up the whole time, even while I'm discoursing. Senator Stuhr, why, if you know, did Game and Parks come with a bill at this time, when we have, by everybody's agreement, a financial crisis confronting the state? Why did they pick this session for this bill?

SENATOR STUHR: I believe they were looking ahead, trying to avoid circumstances that would continually put them in a position where they were always trying to catch up.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you mean if they happen to get a cut this time, unlike every other operation we cut, they could simply raise the fees, because we've given them a fail-safe or fallback position. Isn't that true?