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FLOOR DEBATE

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cover the low-level judgments, but it is enough to cover at least the Forecasting Board deficit. It's almost...it's designed exactly to cover that deficit. So your choices are really four at this point: do the surcharge and cover the low-level judgment; do the bonding and cover everything; do the income tax and cover the Forecasting Board deficit but not the low-level judgment; and your fourth alternative is to do nothing. Obviously, I wouldn't be involved with what's going on today if I thought number four was a sensible judgment for any basically conservative legislative body. If there's anything we all should be thinking conservatively on it's having enough money to pay our bills without being in the position next year of conceivably destroying institutions because of necessary wholesale and large cuts to the budget next year. Having said that, procedurally, that's what's in front of you. I want you to recall how all of this happened, and how the Appropriations Committee and how the Governor reacted to what has happened. You may remember in January and coming into February the ship of state was already sailing in somewhat choppy, inhospitable waters. In February, we had two holes, two gaping holes blown in our hull. One was the Forecasting Board's prediction of increasing deficits to the amount of \$104 million, gap number one, \$104 million. And then the second blast was the low-level Appeals Court judgment that has been described to you now in some detail by Senator Brashear. Before we came out here on the floor then what did the Appropriations Committee do and what did the Governor do to address these two problems? The Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, working with the Governor and with the Appropriations Committee, really had two big solutions to those two problems. The one solution was to cut state aid by \$100 million, and to allow the local school districts to raise their levies by an additional 5 cents. That solution was concurred in by the Appropriations Committee and by the Governor. The second solution was that both the Governor and the Appropriations Committee recommended to the Revenue Committee that at least \$112 million of revenue be raised by one means or another. The Appropriations Committee and...did not feel that it was our job to recommend any one solution or another. Our job was to say we had \$100...at least \$112 million more that we needed to raise, considering what was in the Cash Reserve Fund, to deal with our problems appropriately. The