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

March 14, 2006 LB 1060

That's something that we're going to have to deal with. One of the things that I think you will want to note is the fact that in the third bill, which will be heard a little later, you will see that we have modified the amount that the Governor had proposed for the Cash Reserve. We've increased the amount of Cash Reserve more substantially than the Governor had, and if you look at the chart, the graph that is shown on...just a moment...shown on page 8 of the goldenrod copy, you will see this chart. And you will see how our revenue fluctuates in this state, and you will see that...look at the year 2000, what happened. And so it's very much up and down. By and large, it will tell you that we have a 5.2 percent general increase on an historic basis, but that historic basis doesn't do much for you on a year-to-year basis, because in some cases it's been remarkably up, some cases remarkably down. We are on the upside at the current time. The committee decided that we needed to have a bigger reserve, and we're trying to...this is basically for the benefit of those of you who will be here next year and the year following. We know that the revenue is going to go down at some given point. We want to soften the blow of that going down, so we have increased the amount. But that gives a semi-distorted picture of our financial status, because it would appear, then, that we have more money for spending on the short-term basis. Let's be restrained when we look at that, because we're looking down the road. We're trying to provide sufficient monies in the ongoing years, so that we don't have to do the Draconian cuts that we had to do in the late nineties. It's very difficult to balance these things, but we want you to bear that in mind. Don't take the idea that there is additional money there to be an opportunity for more spending. committee has gone through each of the items that are contained in the budget itself, and we have tried to apportion what the requests were versus what we think the assets of the state can And...now we will have amendments that will be presented on the floor today and however long this takes. But I think we have to bear in mind on those amendments that some of them we didn't even hear. We didn't have a chance to assess those in the committee, so we didn't have any basis of comparison. There isn't probably any item in our budget that wouldn't support an increase in the amount of spending. individual proposals will have merit. Virtually all of the