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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, actually, I have to crank you back to last year. And last year we passed the biennial budget.

SENATOR BOURNE: Right.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: And the biennial budget called for a 7.1 percent increase.

SENATOR BOURNE: In spending over the prior year?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes, yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: And this is an extension of that. We provided for that for the first year, and then now for the second year, we've made some adjustments, in addition to that, but by and large, I think you have to look back. Certainly, it's 7.3 percent, and I'm not shy about that. But why is it 7.3 percent? You know...

SENATOR BOURNE: That's what I'm asking.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yeah, yeah. If you look back at that graph that I referred you to on page 8,...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...you will see that we were deep in the hole for several years, beginning in the late nineties, and we're digging out of that. But if you look at the five-year average--and I'd refer you to that, rather than the immediate average--if you look at the five-year average, you will see that it's been about 4 percent that we've increased over the revenue.

SENATOR BOURNE: I read that, as well, and I guess what I'm saying is, what is our budget on an annual basis--\$2.5 billion, \$3 billion?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: It's \$3-plus billion each year.