

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think that it is very important that this bill be kind of considered in its full impact. I think the first thing that should be made, and I believe that Senator Warner mentioned this, this is by far the largest bill of all of the bills and in fact is about half, in fact more than half of the state general fund that is being appropriated. I think that these programs should be looked at and assessed very carefully because this is aid to subdivisions and it is aid to individuals, money that flows away from the state to programs, and these programs certainly many of them are deserved. However, this bill contains many things that go away from state government. I think that there has been a good deal of concern and pressure from local subdivisions asking that the state increase the amount of money that it sends away, that more than half the amount of money has not been adequate. Now we did not even obviously fund the total number of requests that came in. We put a good deal of these in a secondary bill, LB 591, that may come on later. Even with 591 and the two and a half million dollars there we came nowhere near funding those obligations that were asked for. Now those that were clearly statutory, those that we are obviously obligated to such as homestead exemptions and so on, that money was put in. Although in some areas such as special education the amount that is in is purely an estimate, so in the case of welfare. So I think that these are areas that may in fact come in for deficiencies. This bill and this program could be even larger, even this current fiscal year because of deficiency appropriations. So I would suggest that perhaps if there is a concern about the size of next years budget, that if people indeed believe that there should be full and complete discussions that this is the bill that should be very carefully analyzed because this is the bill that contains more than half of the state general fund obligation. Many of these also will increase considerably next year. Many of those because of action taken in previous years. Such things as the personal property tax relief will grow considerably between this year and next year. Such things that we have voted in the past is the homestead exemption will grow considerably between this next fiscal year and the following fiscal year. If the concern is long range funding then I think also we ought to look at those types of things. Because indeed this aid to subdivisions will be cutting up I believe close to half of the second year increase if we stay with 7% budgeting. This does not even include some things such as LB 138 which has increased aid to counties that I believe is being requested by some senators here. I guess all that I am trying to point out is that if this Legislature believes, we must look very carefully at this