

said we can use the revenue, we are glad to have the money go to the cash reserve, we are glad to examine the issue, but we shouldn't simply throw money at three weak cases. Let those three offerings go through the regular appropriational process and struggle for their money just like welfare struggles for it, like mental health struggles for it, like alcoholism struggles for it, like Parks and Recreations struggles for it, like our schools struggle for theirs and right on down the line. Do not earmark, we said. But, you know, it doesn't make any difference what the Revenue Committee does because they all know they can come out here and they can lobby you one at a time, one at a time they can pull you away and they can say, well, Senator Sieck, you like Natural Resource Districts, let's earmark it. Senator Lynch, you like aid to private schools, let's earmark it. And they can do it, one at a time, and when they do that and they are successful, then this Legislature loses the real ability to control the purse string, and that is the truth. That's why Senator Warner fights this issue because he knows that is true and I know that is true and so does Senator Pirsch and Senator Hefner and a lot of other people. We should not be earmarking our taxes. Our taxes should go into the general fund and then you and I will scrap on the floor among competing interests as to how we are going to appropriate the general fund money, and that is the truth. And what we now have is we have got a bill that says, earmark it, earmark it, and it is time for that bill to be killed and I think it is time for those interests in the rotunda to understand that the Legislature will not tolerate this kind of earmarking and, therefore, the bill should be killed. Senator Hefner and I were visiting about this a moment ago. This bill would not be on the floor from the Revenue Committee without the earmarking taken out. We would not have advanced that bill. But we thought, well, it is the responsible thing to do. The responsible thing to do today is to kill the bill so that the folk in the rotunda understand they have got to make their case in the appropriate place, the Appropriations Committee. You remember when Dave Stockman, a Director of the Department... Director of the Office of Budget wrote the piece in the Atlantic Monthly about how the great Tax Reform Act of 1981 was put together and he used the expression, "The hogs are really at the trough." And he talked about how in the end he, Dave Stockman, wanted to make certain that those offering some programs that provided the greatest relief and the greatest good were maintained. But he said,