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the '85-86 fiscal year budget obligations. But the observation of this forecasting committee went beyond simply saying that the earlier estimate was too high. The shock for all of us elected representatives is contained in the belief that our economy has turned sharply downward. The shock goes further because the committee believes that this downturn will last for several years. It is tempting for us to look at this problem and say that it is short term; to assume that some miracle is going to occur in the revenue figures in the next six months to turn this whole thing around and to change what we all know to be the case. This is the temptation that gets many people into trouble. It is the temptation known as the temptation of avoiding reality. Before you debate the specific recommendations that I have made to you, I urge you to consider and I urge you to embrace, as well, two underlying assumptions which should form the basis of our action. First of all, this re-forecast of revenue is a permanent change of directions. The Forecasting Committee is telling us that for the next several years we can expect a weakening of our economy. The problem is, therefore, not one of a short time duration. If we adjust, if we adjust the size and scope of government today, we will be prepared to adjust in the other direction when our economy recovers. If we do not shrink the size of government now, we will constantly face the need to extract ever larger percentages of our people's income in the next few years. Secondly, in times of economic hardship, where income declines, the most appropriate response is to conserve our resources. If I reduced the amount of food available to you over a given period of time, you would conserve this food that I allot to you. You would reduce your consumption. You would try to reduce the amount of food that you consume during that period of time so that you didn't run out of the food that was allotted to you. Government must respond accordingly. We've got to measure the resources that we have available, measure the resources that we have available to provide the collective action for our people and we must attempt to conserve those resources. There will be arguments presented to you to the effect that these budget reductions are going to devastate particular programs or collective efforts involved. The fear of ruining some governmental effort by making these reductions are going to be raised over and over again. I suggest to you that these fears are imaginary and they tend to make us do things which in the long term will be much more destructive and much more devastating. That the pain of the reductions