

to go than any other direction. Now as far as our recommendations relative to the special session, by doing an elimination, why the reduction in the Program 122 under the Governor's proposal is \$111,000. The proposal that the committee made is \$9,500 in Program 122. Program 123 at the 3 percent was 44,000. Our proposal is 26,000 and Program 127, the three programs that I'm mentioning here are the ones that are affected by the special sessions, a 3 percent cut in that program is 23.9 thousand. And our recommendation was \$8,800 in that program. All I'm saying is that the option that you have, in this budget, we all recognize that whatever the majority of the Legislature wants to do is what will be done without any question in the Legislative Council budget. So all we're saying to you, that you can accomplish the same thing of accommodating additional costs of a special session through a vertical cut and making smaller cuts in those programs affected by the special session. Or you can choose to go with what is before you which is roughly a \$8,500 cut as opposed to a \$210,000 cut and that's the option before you and I leave you to make your own judgment.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Scofield, to address the Beutler amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. I understand Senator Beutler's concern with this issue and I don't think our proposal was intended to take anything away from the obvious hard work that he and his staff and the Exec Council did in providing their information to the committee. But I'd just like to reiterate how we went about this in the committee. It was our philosophy to make specific cuts where we could and to treat ourselves the same as everyone else. Senator Wesely raises the question, well, why did you treat the judicial branch differently than we treated ourselves? It certainly was not based on any perception of ourselves as less important than that branch. We simply found ourselves constrained differently by statutory and constitutional provisions when we looked at the judicial branch. So it is important that you understand that. We made a genuine attempt to treat everybody the same here, including ourselves and to do otherwise, I think, is a serious mistake. You have a choice essentially here to consider Senator Beutler's proposal to take a series of cuts which he is proposing, but that does cost us some money and obviously we're going to have to find that elsewhere if you propose