

recommending to you instead a \$200,000 reduction which would be a smaller amount than is in the bill now. Essentially the things that would be eliminated of \$170,000 involves some deferral of some equipment, the ability to use some federal funds in lieu of state funds at the current time, plus a \$30,000 reduction in five county court positions which the court had identified. During the course of the public hearing on the Supreme Court there were a number of other areas in which the Chief Justice indicated that reductions could be made, but virtually all of them were of a nature that would require the introduction of legislation and approval by the Legislature of substantive law before the savings could be effected. And, secondly, most of those changes would not be immediate in any event and there would be not all that much savings here. The Supreme Court has a number of...a large amount of their appropriation, of course, deals with judges' salaries which we cannot constitutionally adjust. We did inquire, for example, if the coming increase in salaries could be an adjusted schedule for next year. Told that could not be constitutionally done at this time because of the way the legislation that brought about that increase was worded. Beyond that, it was obvious that there would be some real curtailment of the ability of citizens to get their grievances before a court system if a cut was made higher than what we suggested and that is why we recommend a \$200,000 amount as opposed to the 294 in the Governor's bill.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mrs. President. I would like to ask Senator Warner a question about this. Senator Warner, on your handout it shows voluntary cuts of \$170,000 plus \$30,000 reduction, five full-time employees, county court positions. County court positions, can you explain, does that mean five full-time employees that work in county courts? What does...

SENATOR WARNER: Pardon?

SENATOR MARSH: On this green handout that you have given us, I don't understand that. Is this your handout?

SENATOR WARNER: The county courts are in the Supreme Court's budget, that portion that the state pays, and I do