

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask Senator Schmit if he would yield to a question.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Schmit, I just received your four to five-page handout here and I wonder, I don't care if you take my whole five minutes. I would like to have a little explanation of it and more...I know that you ended up with only about 20 seconds and I would really like to understand better what you are talking about here.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I'm sorry, I didn't hear the last part of your question, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Your handout.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I would like more definitive explanation of it because when you were talking I know you ran out of time and I would just like you to run through it and explain it. Part of this doesn't come out very clear on my copy. At the same time, I would like to know more about the handout and I won't be offended if you take my entire five minutes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Higgins. It seemed to me when I saw the Governor's recommendations that a large portion of those cuts were, in fact, shifts in spending. And, as Senator Warner has said, no one can tell whether or not the local subdivision can make adjustments or whether, in fact, they must raise taxes. It seems to me that we ought to take a close look at the various agencies to see if, in fact, they also might have some surplus funds. I will just mention, for example, the advocacy agencies which I think are being cut at \$66,000. Well, I can...by going through the agencies here, it was easy for me to see that in the event a number of agencies continue to spend their funds at the same level they are spending them at the present time that they would have a surplus of funds, I will say, Research, for example, \$33,784; Education, \$43,226; I can go on down the line. You can read those numbers. I do not know and I do not have the information, because I did not have the time, whether or not there is a justifiable reason for each of these agencies to be spending at a level less than the average of five-twelfths of their budget for the year, or if, in fact, there may be surplus funds. The same is true with cash funds.