

1           The salary or compensation of any public officer  
2 shall not be decreased during his term of office. That  
3 also is contained in the existing provisions. Except  
4 as herein provided, the General Assembly shall not alter  
5 the budget bill except to strike out or reduce items  
6 therein. That is included in the present existing Consti-  
7 tution.

8           THE CHAIRMAN: Any questions, Mr. Haile?

9           MR. HAILE: This Section starts off, The General  
10 Assembly shall not amend the budget or the budget bill.  
11 In this last sentence, I see a difference. As a matter of  
12 fact, the budget is not before the Legislature.

13           MR. CASE: The reason the budget was put in  
14 there in the first instance was to make it abundantly  
15 clear that the estimate of revenues which does appear in  
16 the budget but not in the budget bill could not be amended.  
17 The revenue estimates do not appear in the budget bill.  
18 They appear in the budget only. That is the reason the  
19 words budget were put in the first sentence. They do not,  
20 you are perfectly correct, they do not apply to the last  
21 three sentences of the Section.