

1 across-the-board percentage cut?

2 MR. CASE: I am sorry --

3 MR. SYKES: The main effect of this require-  
4 ment, the Legislature can only strike by item, is to  
5 prevent their having an across-the-board percentage cut  
6 in the budget, isn't that correct?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I think you have misread the  
8 sentence, Mr. Sayre, on the basis of your last comment.

9 MR. SAYRE: The way I read it is that the  
10 General Assembly can only alter by reducing by item, is  
11 that correct?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I will ask Mr. Case to answer.  
13 I would not have supposed that that sentence would prevent  
14 the Legislature from applying a percentage reduction  
15 to every item in the budget.

16 MR. SAYRE: I would interpret that and I would  
17 say that is highly desirable, but I want to be sure that  
18 is the proper interpretation.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Case?

20 MR. CASE: As I interpret it, it would permit  
21 the General Assembly to make any item that it saw fit,