

1 for such a long period of time this last session, namely,
2 and the reason was, or it is claimed that the reason was
3 that the General Assembly just didn't act on the budget
4 soon enough to permit the General Assembly to then take
5 up other money bills.

6 Our Committee went into this matter in great
7 depth and discussed it with not only legislative leaders
8 but people, budget people, the Governor and others, and
9 in addition to the consultants and experts that appeared
10 at our day-long hearing, and with the exception of one
11 or two, and these were mine, the unanimity of opinion was
12 that the provision in the Constitution requiring the
13 budget bill to become law first before other money bills
14 move is a salutary provision and should be preserved.
15 It was felt by practically everybody that this was a very
16 vital safeguard, permitting the Legislature to see just
17 where it is on the principal appropriations of State
18 revenues before they get into frolics, problems of their
19 own or somebody else's problems.

20 We also learned that, as a matter of fact, the
21 General Assembly probably could and in fact should act