

This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

I read with interest an article that was published by the Associated Press in one of our local papers recently and read the rhetoric of Governor Brown when he warns of school cuts if his tax proposal is rejected this coming November. Obviously he thinks that by scaring parents of school age children that they will vote for his tax proposal and thus give him the money he needs to continue to spend in this great state of ours.

Now let's analyze the budget in so far as it has been reported. First of all there is going to be a shortfall of about nine billion dollars and he wants to generate monies for the shortfall from a tax proposal that will be on the ballot.

What he isn't being candid about is that the budget for the general fund for the coming year ~~at nine two point five billion dollars~~ is seven billion dollars more than the current year. Let's put the numbers together. There is the nine billion dollar shortfall for this coming year, but they have increased spending for the general fund by seven billion dollars. So really there is only a two billion dollar shortfall.

The general fund pays the day to day operation of California government and this is where the budget has been in deficit. My question is why do they have to increase the general fund if there is going to be a shortfall.

His tax proposal would be to raise income taxes on those making two hundred and fifty thousand dollars or more a year and boost the state sales tax by one half cent. These higher taxes would raise about seven billion dollars according to this article and would continue in effect until 2017.

Now an increase in the sales tax will hit everybody in this great State of ours so he's not talking about just taxing the rich, he's talking about taxing the every day person who shops in <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ stores in ~~our~~ state.

He then threatens that if the tax increase is not passed, he will call for an automatic cut of four point eight billion dollars in public education. That is equal to three weeks of school.

The article went on to say that Jim Nielson, a Republican, and Vice Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, said that the Governor's plan of raising taxes is business as usual for the Democrats. The Governor is not imposing spending restraints, such as a spending cap and that should be done. His budget proposal would provide seed funding for the much criticized ninety eight billion dollar high speed rail and other State projects. How much is seed money?

I leave you with a point to ponder. Isn't it interesting that government can spend your money but you can't spend government's money.

This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment.