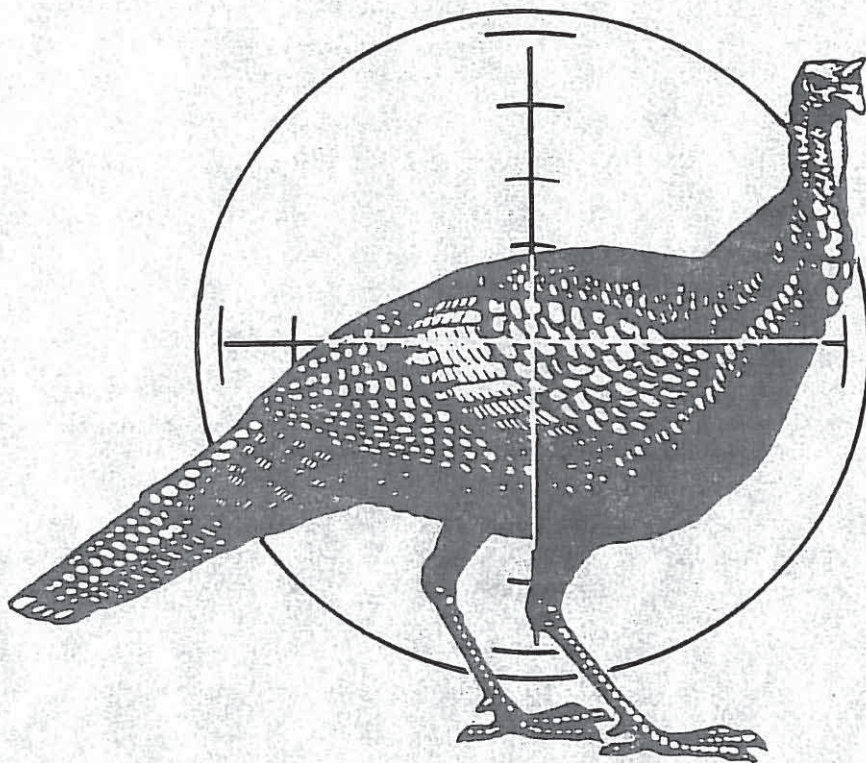


1989 TURKEY WATCH



**Governor Should Chop Over 300 Turkeys
Worth \$125 Million from State Budget**

June 23, 1989

and update of June 29, 1989 Governor's vetoes

Florida
TaxWatch
Inc.



ABOUT FLORIDA TAXWATCH

Florida TaxWatch, Inc. is the only independent, statewide organization devoted entirely to scrutinizing our state's tax and spend issues. Since its inception in 1979, Florida TaxWatch has become widely known and highly acclaimed as the "watchdog" of Floridians' hard earned tax dollars. Without lobbying, Florida TaxWatch has worked diligently and effectively to inform and safeguard taxpayers' interests, helping to reduce inefficiencies and promote responsible, cost effective improvements in the management and operation of state government.

Florida TaxWatch is a private, non-partisan, non-profit research foundation supported entirely by voluntary, tax-deductible membership contributions. A wide spectrum of Florida's citizens support Florida TaxWatch, including small and large businesses, professional firms, associations, members of the news media and individuals -- all of whom are concerned about meeting the needs of our growing population. Monitoring and reporting on how our leaders collect and utilize public revenues and how much value taxpayers receive in return is what Florida TaxWatch is all about.

Membership in Florida TaxWatch is open to any organization or individual interested in supporting sound research which promotes a more effective, responsive and efficient government.

Florida TaxWatch publishes several types of research products explaining how timely economic, financial and tax related developments may impact Florida's citizens. We offer creative, practical ways to maximize the state's resources so that Floridians can receive the sound, responsible government management practices and prudent, productive public spending.

The result? Since its inception in 1979, Florida TaxWatch has added over \$1.5 billion worth of value to the state budget. We are helping the state's citizens to receive maximum value for every tax dollar they invest. In addition, our professional, empirically sound reporting of government spending policies is instrumental in holding public officials accountable for the manner in which they spend our tax dollars.

Florida TaxWatch Inc.

111 N. Gadsden Street • P.O. Box 10209 • Tallahassee, FL 32302 • Phone (904) 222-5052 • FAX# (904) 222-7476

August 1989

PRESIDENT
Dominic M. Calabro*

Dear Fellow Taxpayer:

On June 26, 1989, Florida TaxWatch released its annual "Turkey Watch" report, calling attention to legislative items which are included in the state budget that circumvent the normal budgetary process or benefit a limited special interest.

The resultant list of over 300 turkeys, twice as many as last year's crop and costing in excess of \$124 million, is evidence that Florida's legislative budgeting system has fallen prey to an insidious "pork barrel frenzy" that has even freshman legislators scurrying to bring home the bacon at any cost.

Although this year's budget of \$23.2 billion represents an increase of 9.4 percent over last year's, state coffers are hardly awash in funds. Billions of dollars of existing and prioritized unmet needs call for attention: over 22,000 children are wait listed for day care; the State Employees Health Insurance Trust Fund is projected to have a \$20 million deficit by 1990; our highways are clogged and in disrepair; our schools are crowded and not yet performing up to par.

The list of programs needing added funding, programs which most if not all Floridians depend upon and expect, continues to grow. The State Comprehensive Plan Report's ten-year goals for the betterment of state service delivery are not being met. In short, we have problems. But that did not prevent the 1989 Legislature from passing a greater number of turkeys than ever before.

Unfortunately, the last few years have set an unhealthy precedent for permitting widespread proliferation of these items. Legislators, whether they are seasoned politicians or first term members, have come to expect their share of turkeys as their rightful due. The question is, what does this practice do to Florida's taxpayers.

The "Turkey Watch" report lists a series of recommendations developed by Florida TaxWatch which would enable our state leaders to correct this worsening and very costly situation and adhere to a budgeting system that is responsible and in the best interest of Florida taxpayers.

Hopefully, the efforts of Florida TaxWatch combined with a strong commitment from our legislative leadership will prevent this situation from spinning further out of control and will lead to a sound, fair budgeting system for all of Florida's citizens.

Sincerely,

T. Wayne Davis
T. Wayne Davis
Chairman

Dominic M. Calabro
Dominic M. Calabro
President

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Definition of a Turkey

It must be noted that the "turkey" label is not necessarily a blanket condemnation of a particular project. Many items in this report are worthwhile. But with vast needs and limited resources the question must be "is this the best use of the taxpayers' money." We must think in terms of priorities for all Florida's citizens.

Turkeys are usually tacked onto the state budget during the legislative session, circumventing the normal planning and budgeting process which, by necessity, requires close scrutiny by state agencies, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting and legislative committees and staff.

Turkeys generally fall under one or more of the following categories of expenditures:

1. Projects or programs included in the budget that did not go through any review process allowing for a thorough evaluation; i.e. agency budget requests, the Governor's budget recommendations or legislative committee hearings;

2. Subsidies to private organizations, councils or committees which can and should obtain their funding from private sources;

3. Local government projects benefitting local area residents but lacking significant local funding support and overall benefit to the state as a whole;

4. Projects having no empirically demonstrated public benefit, but are, instead, of benefit to some special interest; and

5. Low priority projects that get funded over higher priority items.

What Else Could a Turkey Buy?

Spending on turkeys by state government results in less money for legitimate public service needs. Florida TaxWatch has compiled a partial list of valuable programs, each identified as a priority in the state's established planning and budgeting process, which were underfunded or, in certain circumstances, completely neglected in favor of the infamous turkeys.

- **\$20 million** would bring the State Employees Health Insurance Trust Fund out of an estimated \$20 million deficit in FY 1989-90.
- **\$50 million plus** would provide pre-kindergarten for all four-year-olds who are at or below the poverty level.
- **\$6.5 million** would build one elementary school.
- **\$54 million** would provide child care for the 22,000 low-income children on the HRS waiting list.
- **\$1.5 million** would provide one work-camp prison facility capable of housing 200 minimum custody inmates.
- **\$10.5 million** would build one dormitory-style facility to house 760 inmates.
- **\$34 million** would build one single-cell facility to house 900 inmates.

"In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the greatest difficulty lies in this: you must oblige it to control itself."

James Madison

Even in a Lean Budget Year, Turkeys Come Home To Roost

State Budget Includes \$125 Million Worth of Turkeys

This was supposed to be the year of no turkeys. With a "no new taxes" pledge and everybody claiming that there is not nearly enough money to fund even the state's most critical needs, legislators were not supposed to be able to bypass the budget process and secure pet project funding. Early in the session, legislative leaders told the members it would be no use to try to get their turkeys approved.

However, the "bare-bones" \$23.2 billion state budget is not so turkey-free after all. At least \$121 million is slated for some 342 non-priority items which are funded outside the legislatively mandated planning and budget review process. And many legitimate needs go unfunded.

Broken up by funding source, \$14.4 million comes from General Revenue, \$35.7 from the State Infrastructure Fund, \$34.4 million from Lottery/Public Education Capital Outlay and \$36.6 from other trust funds.

As in other years, Florida TaxWatch studied the new budget with an eye for "turkeys" or legislative appropriations which utilize public money in a manner which is not in the best interest of the general citizenry. During the previous three years, a steady increase in the number and amount of turkeys has been noted. This year's crop is record size in terms of number of items and approaches the \$150 million TaxWatch identified last year. This is especially alarming considering the state's vast needs and its lean budget scenario.

Highlighting the presence of turkeys in this year's budget is the fact that the conference committee report carried a larger bottom line than both the House and Senate budgets. The conference report, which is the final adopted budget, is supposed to be a compromise between the House and Senate proposals. But while those two proposals carried price tags of \$22.7 billion and \$22.9 billion, respectively, the final budget came in at \$23.2 billion.

Once again, the Legislature scrambled in the waning hours of the session to finalize the budget. Such eleventh hour budgeting makes for a fertile turkey breeding ground. The conference committee report was passed on the evening of the last day, quickly and with very little debate. No wonder, since committee members had little time to review the document. After its passage, one legislator commented that he resented having to vote on a budget he did not have a chance to read.

Turkeys used to be a privilege of the legislative leadership, but this is no longer the case. Now even rank and file members have been able to bring home the bacon. Turkeys are a tried and true way to reward fellow lawmakers for allegiance.

Florida's "automatic pilot" budgeting system makes non-priority appropriations even more insidious. Since virtually no attention is paid to the state's budget base, once a turkey makes it into the budget, it is there to stay.

This year, the state was faced with a shortage of recurring revenues and a surplus of non-recurring revenue. It was from this pot of one-time monies that most turkeys arose. Since these monies cannot be used to fund recurring programs, the Legislature funded numerous special projects. These nonrecurring funds should have been used to shore up the state's deplorably low budget reserves -- the Working Capital Fund.

Statesmanship, embodying a proud and responsible attitude which demands positive government reforms for the good of all, appears to be fading. The very accountability and dignified leadership to which Floridians have become accustomed over the years, and which they deserve, are eroding before our eyes. More and more, we are seeing other people's money being used for inappropriate and sometimes detrimental funding, which continues to diminish our ability to meet legitimate, high-priority needs of the state.

Summary of Recommendations

- Governor Martinez should take advantage of his veto power to rid the state budget of "turkeys."
- An annual "turkey allowance" not to exceed 10% of the Working Capital ("Rainy Day") Fund in any given year should be implemented.
- The Governor and Legislature should establish a true capital budget with a comprehensive prioritization process.
- The state's budget base should receive more scrutiny through an agency budget sunset process coupled with a requirement to redirect 5% of each agency's budget toward priority needs.
- The recently authorized Tax and Budget Reform Commission should consider the above recommendations and make curbing turkeys a high priority.

Curbing Turkeys Means Changing State's Budget System

Political realities mean turkeys will always be with us. But the excesses of recent years must be stopped.

Florida TaxWatch proposes allowing an annual "turkey allowance" not to exceed an amount equal to 10% of the Working Capital ("Rainy Day") fund in any given year. This would provide a political incentive to increase the woefully low Working Capital Fund while limiting the amount of money that legislators spend at will. Future appropriations from the working capital fund should only be used for revenue shortfalls and emergency expenditures.

Florida TaxWatch recommends a requirement that the Governor and Legislature establish a true capital budget with a comprehensive needs assessment and prioritization process.

In order to get at existing turkeys, the state should adopt a one-time agency budget sunset process over a

five to seven-year period. In subsequent years, each agency should be required to redirect 5% of its prior year's budget base to priority areas. Florida's incremental budget process automatically increases the prior year's budget by inflation, workload increases and annualized growth of last year's new programs. This process assumes that what was spent last year was effective, efficient and necessary.

It should also be statutorily required that all new funded facilities and programs be placed in separate line-item appropriations. This is an improved accountability measure, providing better public scrutiny and input in the budget process. It would also make it harder for dubious appropriations to be hidden in larger, more worthwhile budget items. Florida TaxWatch does commend the 1989 Legislature for doing a much better job of clearly identifying special projects in individual line item appropriations.

TURKEYS

...crowd out government spending on citizens' legitimate needs.

...undermine citizen confidence in the institution of government.

...unnecessarily pump up demand for future spending on "pork barrel" projects.

Florida TaxWatch's 1989 Turkey List

Take an Ax to the Gobblers

ADMINISTERED FUNDS



Special Risk Retirement Adjustment. The Legislature proposes to deplete the already deficient Working Capital Fund to make up for its own mistake. The 1988 Legislature increased the retirement benefits for police officers, fire fighters, and corrections officers covered under the state retirement plan. However, they failed to properly fund the increase, which left the pension fund further in deficit. The Florida Constitution states that any increase in benefits must be provided for on a solid actuarial basis. According to an independent actuary, insufficient funds will be collected from employers to pay for the increase. Presently, this legislation is being challenged in court.

Whether or not this legislation stands, it constitutes an improper use of the Working Capital Fund and should be vetoed. The fund should only be used to cover emergency expenses. Further, a non-recurring source of revenue, such as the Working Capital Fund, should not be used to fund a recurring expense like pension benefits. Future pension fund deficits are inevitable unless employer contribution rates increase or the law is repealed. In the meantime, using the state's already low Working Capital Fund to make up for the deficit is both risky and irresponsible.

\$7,824,168



World Disability Games. The prize for "most confusing funding" must be awarded to the World Disability Games, a competitive event for physically challenged children scheduled for December 1989 in Miami. Although the cause is inarguably a good one, the truly challenging aspect of this event is figuring out its funding source.

Appropriations for these games appeared in the budget twice: once under Administered Funds and again under the Department of Commerce during the last hours of the legislative session. Administered Funds generally contain miscellaneous appropriations applying to all state agencies or contingency money to cover certain cost overrides. The Department of Commerce did not request this funding and the Senate originally recommended only \$25,000.

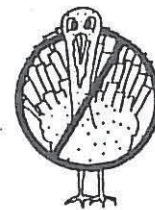
• (Administered Funds)

\$100,000

• (~~Department of Commerce~~)

\$50,000

VETOED



A Word About Administered Funds. . .

Florida's budgetary system features a separate category called Administrative Funds, a designation which is applied to certain miscellaneous items which are not included in the budget of any state agency. This category, containing an allocation of \$139 million for FY 1990 is for statewide contingencies, such as disaster relief or other emergencies. It is also used to cover revenue shortfalls in programs whose scope or distribution, despite proper planning, could not be predicted at the time of inception.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Agri-vating Turkeys. Hendry and Collier Counties are also looking to the state to make up for lack of local support for their agricultural centers. Collier County received \$200,000 from the state last year. Hendry County's project was not among the 28 local projects recommended by the Department of Agriculture. The state cannot continue to sponsor these local projects when so many projects of statewide benefit go unfunded and when the State Infrastructure Fund has been depleted from \$500 million to the unhealthy level of \$350 million.

- **Hendry County Agricultural Center** \$150,000
- **Collier County Agricultural Center** \$150,000



Fishey Turkeys. Dixie County's 4-H group has been appropriated money for a shellfish farming demonstration educational project. Neither the Governor nor the Department of Agriculture recommended funding for this project. Since the agency already has an aquaculture program in place, any aquaculture studies should be approved and funded through this program.

\$75,000



Turkey That Horses Around. This money is to go for advertising, promotion, salaries and general operating expenses for the Breeder's Cup, a horse race to be held at Gulfstream Raceway in Hallendale during November 1989. The race will feature thoroughbreds such as Easy Goer and Sunday Silence and carries a \$10 million purse. While this professional sporting event will bring money and prestige to Florida and its horse racing community, it hardly seems appropriate for the state to fund the thoroughbred industry. The Legislature should stop appropriating funds for commercial, privately-sponsored sporting events.

\$250,000



Baker County Fair. The budget contains a \$100,000 appropriation for the Baker County Fair Association which neither the Governor nor the Department of Agriculture requested. No objective or competitive criteria were used to evaluate this appropriation. Since county fairs are not of statewide benefit, any promotion of or work on local fairs should be funded with local dollars.

\$100,000



Nassau County Ag Appropriation. . . Again!! How many times is money for the Nassau County Agricultural Multi-Purpose Building going to show up in the budget? The Governor vetoed this \$50,000 appropriation in 1987 and again in 1988. This is its second year on the TaxWatch turkey list. The need for this building should have been assessed by Nassau County, the Department of Agriculture should leave it alone. A facility serving local needs should depend upon local funds for construction and renovation.

\$50,000



Turkey Stock. Livestock pavilions bring together the agricultural community and the general public. The pavilions enhance local economies and, like farmers markets, should be supported by local dollars, not state infrastructure money. The State Infrastructure Fund should only be used for projects that are truly of statewide benefit.

- **Southeastern Livestock Pavilion - Marion County** \$250,000
- **Polk County Livestock Pavilion** \$600,000
- **Lafayette County Pavilion** \$100,000
A \$426,157 appropriation for this pavilion was vetoed last year. The department did not request it.
- **Lusk Pavilion - Wakulla County** \$200,000
Not requested by the department.

"Nothing is easier than spending public money. It does not appear to belong to anybody; the temptation is overwhelming to bestow it on somebody."

Calvin Coolidge



A Turkey By Any Other Name. . . A Tallahassee-based agricultural museum, to be built on Conner Boulevard, is a departmental turkey. Last year the Governor vetoed money for the museum saying it did not warrant state funds at that time. Times haven't changed. The 1987 Legislature allowed the department to build a museum for Florida farming artifacts, but a promise was made to find private funding. However, Agriculture Commissioner Doyle Conner requested over \$7 million for this budget year and \$14 million next year to build the museum. This item provides funding for planning of the Florida Agriculture Museum Administration building and grounds. If the planning money is passed it means substantial recurring and non-recurring monies will be requested in the future.

\$250,000



Soggy Turkeys. These projects are water-studies to be conducted by soil and water conservation districts which are locally funded. These local areas also receive Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) revenue, and the extent to which water projects and SWIM funds overlap is unclear. Although the Department of Agriculture requested funding for these projects, the Governor did not recommend them. No objective or competitive criteria were used to evaluate these projects or determine the need for state funds.

- **Lake County Water Quality Project** \$36,000
- **St. Lucie and Indian River Water Conservation Project** \$33,000



All's Not Fair. Walton County is appropriated state money again for the renovation of its fair building. Last year, the Governor vetoed a \$135,000 appropriation for the same renovation. In 1987, the Governor vetoed a \$50,000 appropriation for the Walton County Fair Association. The reasoning for the veto was that facilities serving local needs should depend upon local funds for construction and renovation. TaxWatch urges counties to assess the need for this and similar buildings when appropriating local monies.

\$100,000



To The Market We Go. Four farmers markets were appropriated money for land purchase, additions, reconstruction and renovation. These markets serve as centers for marketing agricultural products of Florida's farmers. However, farmers markets generate revenues to operate and maintain the program through rent, user fees and charges for food packaging. The agriculture industry should support operations, maintenance and expansion of markets through this revenue stream. The Governor recommended adequate money for maintenance to keep the facilities from collapsing. Further funding for farmers markets should not be provided until the legislature adopts criteria to assess the need for such facilities and specified state qualification requirements for partial funding.

The department encourages these turkeys by requesting money in its budget for most markets who request it. The amount requested by the agency in these four cases was \$6.3 million more than was actually appropriated. The department should be encouraging these markets to be self-sufficient. The 1988 Legislature, in an effort to examine and improve the Bureau of Farmers Markets, asked the department to study the agricultural marketing facilities. Present and future projections for existing and future markets are to be determined along with repair, renovation, relocation or closing schedules. A report to the Legislature is due December 15, 1989.

- **Florida City State Farmers' Market** \$650,000
- **Pompano State Farmers' Market** \$1,600,000
A \$1 million appropriation for this market was vetoed last year.
- **Sanford State Farmers' Market** \$500,000
- **Washington County State Farmers' Market**
A \$140,000 appropriation for this market was vetoed last year. \$200,000



Marketing Ornamental Horticulture Overseas. This item provides funding to assist Florida's ornamental horticulture industry with overseas expansion. This has been an ongoing appropriation since 1984 and was a TaxWatch turkey in 1987. The industry should rely on increased revenue from the expanded market base made possible by several years of state assistance to finance future promotional activities.

\$300,000

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



The Florida Trade Promotion Trade-off. The Legislature seems determined to fund local trade efforts. Once again it should be emphasized that the Department of Commerce already has programs in place to promote domestic and international trade in Florida. Ironically, as all these local trade projects are being added by the Legislature, Commerce's Division of Economic Development suffered nine position cuts, four of which were from the department's foreign trade offices. Adding the \$625,000 for local trade efforts to the Division of Economic Development's budget would largely enhance the state's efforts in bringing new business to all areas of Florida. Every Floridian would benefit, not just those living in districts represented by influential legislators.

As we have noted in the past, a number of these projects and trade events are beneficial and useful activities. The issue is whether Florida taxpayers should subsidize them when the state's budgetary prioritization process established by the Legislature indicates otherwise. The following items were not recommended by the Department of Commerce.

- **Miami World Trade Center.** \$75,000
World Trade Institute of the Americas Training Courses
(Second year on TaxWatch turkey list.)
- **Polk International Trade Association** \$100,000
(Second year on TaxWatch turkey list.)
- **International Trade Development Program** \$100,000
(Second year on TaxWatch turkey list.)
- **Tampa Trade Fair** \$200,000
(Fourth year on TaxWatch turkey list.)
- **International Trade Grant - Orlando** \$150,000
(Fourth year on TaxWatch turkey list.)



CAMACOL. The Latin Chamber of Commerce acts as an "incubator" for small and minority businesses. Located in Miami, the center stimulates development of these businesses and assists them in making overseas contacts. While the Department of Commerce commends this local program, it did not request these funds. Only local businesses and the local economy benefit from this appropriation, which is enjoying its second year on the TaxWatch turkey list. The center was appropriated \$200,000 in FY 1988 and \$300,000 in FY 1989.

\$300,000



The Salt Water Turkey. This appropriation, appearing for the second year on TaxWatch's turkey list, would fund oceanographic research, scholarships and publication of the foundation's magazine. This past year, the foundation sold the facilities for Planet Ocean, which was a large part of the foundation's activities, to the City of Miami. Without the commercial attraction of Planet Ocean, it is inappropriate for this item to be in the Department of Commerce's budget. This program should be evaluated by the Department of Education or the Department of Natural Resources for funding purposes.

\$200,000



Assisting Local Businesses. The Genesis Incubator Project plans to assist high-tech businesses in Gainesville with start-up costs. The Governor vetoed the project last year and this is its second year on the TaxWatch turkey list. The department did not request this project nor did the Governor recommend it. While the assistance may prove beneficial to local entrepreneurs, it provides little statewide benefit.

\$450,000



Liberty City Resource Center. Funding is provided to sponsor a joint educational effort between Miami-Dade Community College and the Miami Chamber of Commerce. Projects such as this should be considered through the Department of Education and coordinate with existing higher education programs.

\$100,000



The West Perrine Peccadillo. The West Perrine (Dade County) Community Development Corporation is back again, requesting money to develop a limited health care center, an effort which the Governor vetoed last year. This group wants to be a magnet to attract health-related professionals to the area. The Department of Community Affairs did not support it, nor did the Department of Commerce. In addition, the Metro Commission in Dade County had reservations about providing the center with local dollars. The appropriation circumvented the normal funding process, and enjoys its second year on the TaxWatch turkey list.

\$100,000



Tennis Anyone? The Department of Commerce is somewhat vague on the details of a so-called International Tennis Training Center, soon to be built in Key Biscayne (Dade County). The department did not request funding for this project, which is being sponsored by a private group in Broward County. Funds would be used for expanding and constructing the facility, which would be used to promote amateur tennis. No objective assessment of statewide need or economic development benefits have been established. Florida taxpayers should cry "fowl!"

\$1,000,000



Where Did These Come From? The following items were added during the last hours of the regular session. No one, not the Department of Commerce, the Governor or even most legislators were aware of them until after the conference committee passed the budget, thus circumventing most checks in the budget process. These two events should apply for funding through the Department of State's Cultural Affairs program or rely on local dollars.

• **Jacksonville Jazz Festival** \$25,000

• **Jacksonville Florida Film Festival** \$50,000



Hialeah Gobblers. The legislators from Hialeah did a good job bringing home the state dollars for assisting businesses in developing domestic and international trade. However, these projects are only of benefit to the Hialeah economic community and should be funded by local dollars. None of these projects were requested by the Department of Commerce or recommended by the Governor.

• **Professional Businesses of Hialeah (Small Business)** \$25,000

• **Hialeah Citizens Association** \$20,000

• **Hialeah Latin Chamber** \$100,000
(Second year on the TaxWatch turkey list.)



Unknown Business Loans. The Department of Commerce and the Florida Black Business Investment Board (under whose budget this is found) are both unaware of this appropriation's purpose. It is not aimed specifically at black businesses, but at small businesses in Volusia, Flagler and Putnam Counties. The planning and establishment of such a program should be coordinated with agencies charged with providing small business assistance. This item did not surface until the conference committee budget was finalized in the last hours of the session, forcing most legislators to vote on the budget without knowing the item was included.

\$100,000



Lafayette Library Addition. Lafayette County has requested money through the Department of Commerce to build an addition to its library. Such requests should be processed and prioritized through the Department of State's Cultural Affairs office, which makes grants to local libraries.

\$50,000



Miami Development Conference. Miami's Downtown Development Authority is planning the Miami International Gateway Development Conference to lure international developers and bankers to the area. The Department of Commerce already operates a statewide program to assist local development authorities in attracting international interests into Florida.

\$50,000



Row, Row, Row Your Turkey. Twenty-seven countries will sponsor eight-man crews to participate in an international rowing regatta covering 72 miles on the Intercoastal Waterway from North Palm Beach to Miami. The Department of Commerce did not make this request and does not know who is sponsoring the event. Local sporting events such as this should seek operational and promotional funding from the community deriving economic benefit from hosting the event.

\$50,000



Wheeling and Dealing Around the State. The Legislature continues to fund professional motor sports which should be funded by private sources such as corporate sponsors. Again this year, budget dollars are allocated for the Miami Grand Prix and for moving the International Motor Sports Association (IMSA) from Connecticut to Tampa. Having the IMSA in Florida meets the Department of Commerce's goal to bring professional sports to Florida. The department, however, does not believe funding these sports with state dollars is appropriate. Nor do we.

• **International Motor Sports Association** \$250,000

• **Miami Grand Prix** \$250,000
(Fourth year on TaxWatch turkey list.)



Turkey Touchdowns. Promotional money for two football games was put in this year's budget: Tampa's Florida Classic where Florida A & M and Bethune-Cookman Universities meet annually; and Jacksonville's Bold City Classic, wherein Florida A&M will play in the Gator Bowl. The Department of Commerce did not request money for these events, which may provide an economic boost to Tampa and Jacksonville, but should be supported from ticket sales, the universities' alumni, athletic associations and other private sources.

• **Florida Classic** \$100,000
(Second year on TaxWatch turkey list.)

• **Bold City Classic** \$50,000



Municipios. This association for exiled Cuban municipal officials has requested more money to finish a headquarters building where they plan to teach English and Cuban culture. In 1987, the group received \$100,000 through the Department of Community Affairs to begin construction on its building. Now, they look to the Department of Commerce for money. These officials should seek support from private sources. The Department of Commerce did not request this item and it is not of statewide benefit.

\$165,000



Development Council. It is hard to call this South Florida-based council a turkey because this is the same council that the Department of Commerce helped to establish and still works with closely. State assistance to these councils is limited to consultants to help develop local trade programs. It was not intended for the state to provide financial assistance for operational expenses. Local development councils should be funded by local dollars.

• **Glade/Okeechobee Development Authority** \$50,000



Local Economic Development Turkeys. These are all appropriations to fund the building of community facilities which clearly benefit the local citizens. Each project should be funded by city or county tax dollars, if the localities deem the project worthy, or by admission receipts. No agency requested funds for these facilities, nor were they recommended by the Governor. Our depleted State Infrastructure Fund should preclude our spending money on local projects having little or no relation to meeting state infrastructure needs.

• **Hialeah Community Improvements** \$400,000
This item only appeared in the last hours of the legislative session.

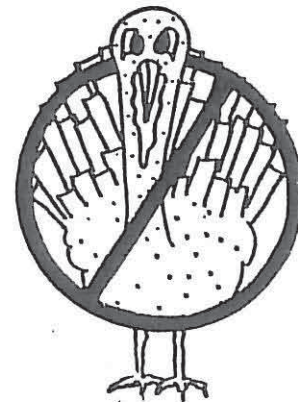
• **Aquatic Complex - Broward** \$2,000,000

• **Miami Sports and Exhibition Facility** \$300,000

• **Little Havana Development Authority** \$75,000

• **Property for Mini-Park in Latin Quarter** \$300,000

• **Amateur Athletic Facility** \$1,000,000



"It is of great importance in a republic not only to guard the society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of the society against the injustice of the other part."

Alexander Hamilton

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The following is a list of projects which ended up in the Department of Community Affairs' budget although none of them were reviewed or requested by DCA. Officials in the department who were contacted about these appropriations and their specific purposes knew very little about the programs. It is interesting to note that they were not surprised to find these turkeys in their budget. As one person in the department commented, "This happens every year."

• Spoil Island Study - Tampa Bay	\$28,000
• Upgrade Emergency Preparedness - Union	\$500,000
• Ali-Baba Triangle Safe Neighborhood	\$2,353,144
• Emergency Preparedness - Vernon/Wausau	\$200,000
• Municipal Building Construction - Jacob	\$89,000
• Cottondale Community Center and Parking Lot	\$307,625
• Community Resource Centers - Dade	\$400,000
• Mercy Drive Community Center - Orlando	\$60,000
• Local Water Projects:	
City of Pahokee Water Tower Repairs	\$115,000
City of Pahokee Pipeline Extension	\$150,000
City of Holt Water Pipe Relacement	\$110,000
City of Fort Pierce Financial Assistance	\$100,000
Town of Medley Land Purchase	\$50,000
• Consolidated Communications System - Alachua	\$600,000
• North Miami Foundation	\$14,000
• Challenger Center Mission Site - Tampa	\$300,000
• Multi-Use Training and Educational Facility - Century	\$250,000
• Housing Cooperative Pilot	\$400,000
• Low Income Demonstration Project - Palatka	\$50,000
• Sewer Repair - Gulf Breeze	\$42,000
• Infrastructure Improvements - Holmes	\$80,000
• Recreational Community Center Building - Jackson	\$100,000
• Recreational and Restoration - James E. Scott Community Association -Miami	\$50,000



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Professor Exchange. This appropriation is to be used to fund a French/English professional program through Florida State University. The Department of Education, however, did not request this nor did the Governor recommend it. The program is unrelated to the International Education Linkages program.

\$40,000



Endowment for Cuban American Studies. This money is to be used by the Cuban-American National Foundation to "establish an endowment to promote research, education and public awareness on issues pertaining to social political and economic trends in Cuba and other nations in the Caribbean Basin region." Originally this endowment would have been provided through one of the State University System schools, but part of a legislative compromise regarding this issue was to appropriate it through the Cuban-American National Foundation. No request was made by the Department of Education for this funding and a move was made in the conference committee to strike it from the budget. It is an inappropriate use of state funds.

\$1,000,000



Reach Out and Touch a Turkey. All nine State University System schools have a college reach-out program which essentially targets economically or educationally disadvantaged high school students in an attempt to motivate them toward higher education. The average annual funding for the program for all State University System schools is approximately \$30,000. The appropriation this year includes proviso language which earmarks \$288,000 and \$200,000, respectively, for Florida State University and Florida A&M University, which the department did not request.

\$488,000



Small and Minority Business Entrepreneurial Center. This appropriation provides for the purchase of computer hardware and software at Miami-Dade Community College for its Small and Minority Business Entrepreneurial Center. The center has received funding from the state in the past, but this represents additional funding which was not requested by the department.

\$100,000



Is This Why The Lottery Was Passed? The Florida Lottery was sold to the voters as a funding source for educational enhancements. The following Department of Education appropriations from the Educational Enhancement (Lottery) Trust Fund all sound like worthwhile programs, but are not a proper use of lottery funds. Further, these were items not requested by the Department of Education nor were they recommended by the Governor.

- **Pasco County Community Partnership Program.** A grant to promote and assist the development of business and industry. Florida Statutes requires business and education grants to be awarded competitively and include private sector matching funds.

\$20,000

- **Louis Wolfson Media History Center.** This private non-profit organization is seeking financial support to restore film footage from the 1940's and transfer it onto video tape for preservation.

\$35,000

- **Miami Book Fair.** A joint venture between Miami-Dade Community College and the City of Miami that is a week-long series of activities attracting international authors and publishers.

\$100,000

- **Biennial Miami.** A contemporary festival of the arts to be held in Miami in the spring of 1991 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America.

\$100,000



Panhandle Area Educational Cooperative. The PAEC is a consortium of several Florida Panhandle school districts, which provides services which they would be unable to afford individually. Although the state has provided financial assistance to the group in the past, this effort should be funded out of the districts' state aid for public schools.

\$250,000



Florida Endowment Fund for Higher Education. This appropriation would create beginning endowments for private, accredited state universities. The appropriation requires a two-to-one private/state match of funds and it appears to represent a positive step forward for Florida's private higher education system. The Florida Endowment Fund for Higher Education provides funding for minority opportunities in higher education. In 1988, the endowment's fund balance was \$18 million. No request was made by the Department of Education for this item and it is to be used solely for private (non-State University System) schools. This appropriation would be drawn from the Educational Enhancement Trust (lottery) Fund.

\$100,000



Private Schools Funded Without PEPC review. Last year Florida TaxWatch cited the problem of private universities which receive state funding support without being reviewed (in accordance with the Florida Administrative Code) by the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission. Such review prevents individual private schools from directly petitioning the Legislature and discourages haphazard growth. Many private institution funds are properly evaluated by the commission and are recommended for state funding. Others, like the following list of 1989 appropriations, bypass the legally established review procedure.

- Barry University **VETOED** Podiatric Medicine \$150,000
- Bethune Cookman College - Challenger Program \$300,000
- Bethune Cookman College - College of Education \$300,000
- University of Miami Med. School - Minority Affairs \$200,000
- Florida Southern **VETOED** Bach. Sc. in Nursing \$17,578
- Florida Southern - Bach. Sc. in Accounting **VETOED** \$59,425
- Edward Waters - Upgrade \$250,000
- Florida Memorial **VETOED** Airway Science \$213,618
- Nova University \$1,309,566



Dropout Prevention Funds Distributed "Willy Nilly." Most taxpayers are aware of Florida's public school dropout rate. While it is difficult to criticize efforts to deal with this critical problem, in this instance it is the *means* - not the *ends* - to which taxpayers should take exception. Approximately \$3.4 million was appropriated to the Department of Education for local projects. This is on top of a \$205,000,000 statewide dropout prevention program. TaxWatch did not recommend the veto of \$8 million of special dropout prevention programs designed to serve special needs populations. Nevertheless, a significant amount of "willy nilly" funding has managed to rear its ugly head once again.

\$3,419,153



Expanded Cancer Research Facility. This appropriation, which would use lottery money for planning/design of an expanded research facility at the Moffitt Cancer Center, did not go through the established process for prioritizing and funding educational facilities.

\$250,000



Dade Academy of the Teaching Arts. These funds pay for the teachers of Dade County to take sabbaticals for the purpose of intensive, semester-long renewal studies. This was not considered a priority by the department and was not requested. This program is eligible to compete for state funds under an established grant initiative for school restructuring.

\$250,000



Minority Student Recruitment and Retention. The Department of Education requested funding for a similar program which would provide funding for community colleges to recruit and retain additional minority students. This appropriation, however, is substantially different. Rather than providing funds to be directed to individual schools, it finances research-related activities. Additionally, minority recruitment and retention programs already exist in numerous institutions. Therefore, state appropriations should be made for direct support of those existing programs.

\$290,084

"Freedom is participation in power."

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Public Education Facilities. This long list of facilities was not judged to be of high enough priority to justify inclusion in the Department of Education's or the Board of Regents' three year capital facilities plan and subsequently did not appear in their respective FY 1989-90 budget requests.

• UCF Fieldhouse and Track	\$3,209,500
• Daytona Beach Community College - site acquisition	\$864,641
• Lecanto VETOED joint use facility planning	\$100,000
• Central Florida Community College - site acquisition	\$20,000
• Pensacola Community College - science tech building	\$500,000
• Pensacola Community College - athletic facility/field improvements	\$225,000
• FAMU - school of business/industry	\$250,000
• FAMU - science and research laboratory building	\$600,000
• FIU - conflict resolution center	\$1,200,000
• - hospitality center completion and equipment	\$338,000
• UCF - campus access parking	\$1,700,000
• UF - IFAS Belle Glade research station	\$3,626,000
• UNF VETOED campus access	\$1,300,000
• USF - new college land acquisition	\$550,000
• UWF - campus recreational facility	\$250,000
• SUS - lab school construction/remodeling/renovation/maintenance/equipment	\$1,000,000
• FIU - community education conference center planning	\$1,500,000
• FAU - Davie Campus (s,p,c,e)	\$2,000,000
• FIU - holocaust center	\$70,000
• UF - college of dentistry building completion and equipment	\$600,000
• UWF VETOED athletic facilities	\$200,000
• FIU - remodeling/furnishing/equipment for theater	\$1,000,000
• WPBT Channel 2 construction and equipment	\$1,942,000
• Polk VETOED County vo-tech center	\$700,000
• Broward County/Hollywood Central/elementary school model	\$500,000
• Osceola VETOED County vo-tech center	\$600,000
• Lake County VETOED vo-tech center	\$500,000

● Sumter County/Bushnell and Wildwood High School	\$150,000
● Columbia County/Columbia County High School	\$1,400,000
● Bradford County/Bradford County High School	\$400,000
● Volusia County/Magnet school	\$500,000
● Broward County/Homestead students (p)	\$40,000
● Washington County/Vernon Elementary School	\$199,000
● Union County/roof repair	\$700,000

No match. Despite Section 240.2601, Florida Statutes, a requirement to secure local matching funds for this appropriation, none were secured.

● UF - IFAS - Lake Alfred - Citrus Research and Education Center	\$237,500
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Better Late Than Never! Although the following three projects did make the DOE's priority list, however, not until a week after the Legislature went home. Nice try.

● Miami-Dade Community College - Purchase of AT&T Building	\$1,900,000
● Gulf Coast Community College - site acquisition	\$700,000
● Pensacola Community College - agriculture building in Milton	\$120,000

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION



Sorry, SOR . . . Funds disbursed to the state water management districts from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund are to be used by the districts to purchase lands on or near environmentally sensitive water bodies. The Save Our Rivers (SOR) appropriations to the state water management districts contains provide language which earmarks approximately one million dollars of Save Our Rivers monies to be allocated to the East Central Florida Marine Resources Council and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for a muck removal project on the East Lake Tohopekaliga. Using SOR funds for these projects is clearly inappropriate and could, in fact, be considered illegal. It goes without saying that funding for these projects was not requested by the Department of Environmental Regulation.

\$1,072,681



All's Not Well With The South Florida Water Management District's development of a plan for protection of public water supply wellfields within the district. This plan requires an assessment of the risk to wellfields from existing pollution, review of existing measures to protect these wells, an analysis of how the district can protect wellfields more effectively and a schedule for the implementation of district action. Though the stated purpose of this is clearly laudable, it appears to represent additional state funding for an activity which is essentially an integral part of the responsibilities of all water management districts, which have their own funding source.

\$10,000



Aid to Local Governments - Water Restoration Projects. The following is a list of projects which appear to be meritorious, however they also appear to be the responsibility of their respective local governments or water management districts. None of these projects were considered by the Department of Environmental Regulation to be a high enough priority to be included in their annual budget request. The funds sought from the state for the restoration work on Lake Miccosukee is undoubtedly a direct result of the financial constraints imposed upon the Northwest Florida Water Management District because of its unjustifiably low constitutional millage cap.

• VETOED Lake Miccosukee	\$500,000
• Kissimmee River Project	\$8,000,000
• VETOED Dogwood Acres Lake	\$40,000
• Cedar Key Marina Development	\$750,000
• VETOED Horseshoe Beach Boat Basin	\$50,000

\$450,000



Hialeah Drainage Projects. Most of the \$8.6 million available for local government stormwater projects is for critical projects in poor, small, rural communities that do not have the revenue capacity to provide essential sewage related services to their citizens. One exception to this is a set aside for the city of Hialeah for a sewer and drainage project. TaxWatch labeled this as a turkey last year and it was vetoed. None of the money set aside for any of these communities was requested by DER.

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



Leon County Parking Facility. This parking garage was not recommended by the Department of General Services. Apparently, the House of Representatives' staff had to park too far from the Capitol.

\$1,300,000



Lakeland Parking Garage. Lakeland officials sold land used for a local parking lot to the state at a fair market value so that the state could build a parking facility for a state building located there. Now they want the state to build them a parking garage.

\$1,200,000



Capitol Complex Musical Chairs. This appropriation provides for the renovation of a relatively new state building to free up office space in the Capitol - why? Whoever knows isn't saying. This move also requires the Public Service Commission to move out of that building and lease 85,000 square feet of office space at market rates. DER didn't request this. Even the House and the Senate did not include it in their budgets.

• **Renovation of Fletcher Building ground floor.** \$2,862,300

• **Relocation of Public Service Commission to private sector office space.** \$550,400

"It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their selfish purposes."

Andrew Jackson

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



Miami Beach Day Care. The Miami Beach Social Services Day Care has been appropriated a small amount of money under a major appropriation for child day care. This was not requested by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services or recommended by the Governor. A legislator simply stuck this one in the budget.

\$5,000



Project ESCAPE. This is a 12-month pilot program to deal with truants and suspended students in Orange County, and is to be operated by the Central Florida Police Athletic League. The program appears to be a dropout prevention project, which should apply for funding through the Department of Education.

\$25,000



Capital Facilities for Private, Non-Profit Organizations. These appropriations are grants to private non-profit service providers to build capital facilities. TaxWatch does not believe state money should be used to build facilities operated by organizations without adequate protection of the state's capital investment. Currently, there is no assurance that these facilities would be use for the purpose authorized by the Legislature.

• Leon Association for Retarded Citizens \$100,000

• Okaloosa Association for Retarded Citizens \$250,000

• Lake County Association for Retarded Citizens \$150,000

• Jackson County Association for Retarded Citizens \$15,000

• J. Clifford McDonald Center, Inc. Group Homes \$75,000

• Dade County Association for Retarded Citizens \$50,000

• City of Hialeah Special Population Center \$400,000

• Tri-County Association for Retarded Citizens \$150,000



Renovation of Federal Buildings. Once the state assumes the responsibility for maintenance of federal facilities, the federal government backs out. This sets a bad precedent.

• Southwest Florida Health Center Renovation \$300,000

• Tri-County Birthing Center Madison County \$100,000



Allapattah Child Care. Allapattah has two appropriations for construction on different child care facilities. Neither was requested by HRS or recommended by the Governor. Neither qualify under the statewide policy to fund child care facilities. Sufficient documentation was not available regarding the program's operations, goals and objectives and it circumvented the needs analysis process used by the agency.

• Allapattah Community Action Child Care \$30,000

• Wynwood Child Care Facility \$30,000



Jefferson County Day Care, Inc. A day care facility in Jefferson County needs a new roof, but the state funds to be used through this appropriation were not requested by the Department of HRS and the Governor did not recommend it. Why? Because there is a better way to do it.

HRS is exploring a low interest loan program to repair and renovate such facilities, which would include a viable loan review process. This program would allow the state to evaluate the merits of all such projects and assist the facility without providing permanent state funding. Sounds like a better mousetrap.

\$10,000



County Public Health Facility Grants. The facilities did not go through the needs assessment prioritization process.

\$1,700,000



Phone Friends. This is a program for kids to call someone who will listen to their problems. Traditionally, the local districts have funded this program and no other district is to receive funding for the project this year. The Governor vetoed this item last year stating that insufficient justification was provided to properly evaluate the need for the project or determine the benefit to the state.

\$30,000



Volusia Easter Seals. This appropriation for an intervention program in Volusia County was vetoed by the Governor last year. This year it was not requested by HRS or recommended by the Governor. In the past, this group has received special workload increases that similar programs have not received. This was not in either the House or the Senate's original budgets.

\$25,000

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES



Highway Patrol Communications Shop. This facility is one of six Florida Highway Patrol projects receiving funding this year. DHSMV reviews and prioritizes needed projects for the patrol and the Division of Drivers Licenses. This Pensacola project was 39th on the department's list and was not earmarked for funding until 1991-92.

\$135,000



Drivers License Office "out of the blue". While the Division of Drivers Licenses has many legitimate needs, some of which go unmet, this appropriation for a planning and feasibility study for an office in Hillsborough County is nowhere on the agency's priority list.

\$90,000

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

THE LEGISLATURE



Larson Building Renovation. This appropriation has not been identified as a priority by the Department of General Services. The building is the 5th newest building in the Capitol Complex and many state-owned buildings are in far greater need of repair. Although the renovation is intended to provide more useable space so that the department can centrally locate personnel who are currently in privately leased space, all department personnel can be adequately housed in existing space.

\$10,000,000



Just Say No To Free Alcohol Treatment for Legislators/Staff. This proviso language allows the Legislature to pay the cost of alcohol dependency treatment in excess of the benefits available under the state health plan. This benefit should not be given to some (legislators) and denied to other state workers.



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECURITY



Asbestos Removal From a Brevard Courthouse. This appropriation would obviously be used for a good health-related purpose, however, local funds should be used for the rehabilitation of a local government building.

\$350,000



Project First Base. The Department of Labor and Employment Security did not request this funding and is uncertain as to the purpose or effectiveness of this appropriation. Such programs should be funded primarily through local sources and supplemented when necessary by state awards granted through a competitive process.

\$20,000

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Turkeys on R & R. A DNR program to aid local recreational development evaluates projects and awards state matching grants to the most worthy applicants. Once again, the conference committee report contains an appropriation for numerous local projects that bypass this established process. Perhaps the state should determine an acceptable means of increasing the funds available to its recreational development assistance program, so that more of these projects could be properly evaluated and funded.

\$8,898,400



Derailed Turkey. Pinellas County has purchased and intends to develop an area between 49th Street and 38th Avenue to be designated as "Rails to Trails." Sounds like a wonderful idea, but state assistance for this development should have come from DNR's local recreational development assistance funding. It is difficult to imagine why the state should be required to pay for this development, especially when DNR did not request it.

\$550,000



Rainbow River Aquatic Preserve. This appropriation would fund the development of an aquatic preserve management plan. DNR has been criticized because only 19 of the state's 41 preserves have such plans. However, whether or not the General Revenue Fund is the proper source for funding is questionable. The measure also represents some overlap in responsibility with water management districts. In any case, DNR did not recommend this funding.

\$25,000



Beach Renourishment and Dune Walkover Projects. Chapter 161, Florida Statutes, sets forth a beach management plan process by which local government applications are to be reviewed and considered. Three projects did not go through this process. Redington Beach did go through the established review process, but appears to be duplicative since an additional appropriation has been funded which is supposed to represent the same project. Additionally, the Redington Beach project entails only a portion of the work to be provided within the scope of the other, similar project.

- Jacksonville Beach - Dune Walkovers \$49,000
- Nassau County - Dune Walkovers \$50,000
- Redington Beach/Shores - Dune Walkovers \$375,000
- Caladesi Island Beach Renourishment \$200,000



Sunny Isles Beach/Parking. This community received federal and state assistance for a beach renourishment project. The total cost of the project was approximately \$15.5 million, of which the federal, state and local shares were roughly 52%, 34% and 14%, respectively. Sunny Isles's federal assistance was conditioned on the city creating public easements and constructing a public parking facility, at an estimated cost of over \$1.7 million. Oddly enough, that is the amount the town is attempting to secure from the state for this project. This funding was not requested by DNR and looks like a local responsibility to us.

\$1,762,500



The Turkey Point Ship Channel Assessment.

This one, a self-proclaimed turkey, would provide an engineering and environmental assessment of Turkey Point's ship channel and boat basin. In seeking to tap funds from the state's Beach Management Trust Fund, this project would involve conducting beach restorations and dune walkovers. DNR did not request this appropriation and recommends that the Governor veto it.

\$75,000



Newfound Harbor Marine Institute - Seagrass Study.

A study conducted by a private activist group indicates that Monroe County's comprehensive plan, if implemented, would negatively impact seagrass and marine life in and around Coupon Bite, located in Big Pine Key. This appropriation would fund a more scientific study of these findings. It was not requested by DNR or the Governor's Office, and like many items in this report, seems like a terrific idea. But it is not apparent why the state should foot the bill for a privately initiated project which the cognizant state agency it did not request or even consider.

\$75,000



Turkey Down the Drain.

Last year, Polk County sought \$1.5 million from the state's non-mandatory Land Reclamation Trust Fund to restore a Lakeland-based drainage basin. The measure was vetoed. DNR, rightly calling the project one of drainage correction rather than land reclamation, does not consider it eligible for land reclamation trust fund dollars. Nevertheless, Polk County once again tried to tap the trust fund - to the tune of \$2.6 million.

\$2,600,000



Wekiva Resources Council (WRC).

The WRC is a private, non-profit advocacy group housed at Seminole Community College. The group holds seminars and generally promotes public awareness about the need for Wekiva River restoration and protection. While the state is spending considerable funds to restore and protect the Wekiva River, it should not be funding a private advocacy group.

\$200,000

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Feathered Feline - Panther Sculpture.

This year marks the last chance to acquire a sculpture of the state's official animal from a particular artist who has a limited number of panther molds. In any event, it was not requested by the agency and was a late entry into the Legislature's budget. Looks like a candidate for private contributions.

\$30,000



Lynn Haven Library.

Following a \$399,000 state grant, this library's expansion was completed in December 1988. This year Lynn Haven requested \$40,000 for interior furnishings and additional resources. The item was not on the State Department's list of projects recommended for funding.

\$40,000



Turkey Mosaic Revisited.

This appropriation would provide planning funds and sponsorship for a traveling mosaic museum on Jewish life in Florida. Although this is the second year that this project has not been recommended by the department's Division of Cultural Affairs, it still wound up in the budget.

\$100,000



The Vocal Turkey project

would help Volusia County obtain more prerecorded tapes of history books. This appropriation was originally requested by the Department of Community Affairs and somehow made its way into the Department of State's budget. In any case, it is strictly a local project and should be financed by local funds.

\$5,000



Cross and Sword Play.

Although this yearly St. Augustine event is the official state play, it did not follow proper budgeting procedures required by the Department of State.

\$75,000



Sistrunk Historical Festival. Once again, this is an unrequested Department of State project meant to celebrate Ft. Lauderdale minorities of African descent.

\$65,000



The "Bat" Mobile. The Jacksonville Museum of Science and History has been provided funding to be used for a "first of its kind" bat museum slated for an October 1989 opening. The museum did not request this funding from the Department of State.

\$28,000



Concert Association of Miami. This non-profit organization is the largest "presenting" concert association in the South. The association conducts concerts for many Dade County underprivileged and inner-city groups. The requested appropriation would underwrite these concerts and attract well known concert artists to the area. The association did not apply for funding through the State's Cultural Affairs program.

\$100,000



Unfair Exchange. The Atlantic Center for Arts international summer exchange program was not requested by the Department of State. Furthermore, Department of State officials were contacted by New Smyrna Beach officials in charge of this program and stated they did not request this appropriation and were indifferent to a veto by the Governor.

\$150,000

"The whole of government consists in the art of being honest."

Thomas Jefferson



Artistic Turkey. A group called the South Florida Consortium helps to exchange performing arts programs among Dade, Monroe, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties. But it was not requested by the State Department and should be funded locally.

\$150,000



Turkey Benefitting One Aria. This request would pay for national radio and television syndication and to enhance Dade County opera activities. State Department officials indicated that the Japanese Opera, "Madam Butterfly," may tour certain Florida cities in December, which would serve the state in a broad enough cultural fashion to justify the funding. Further, the Miami opera is a local event with limited touring possibilities and limited benefits to the state as a whole.

• Greater Miami Opera

\$250,000

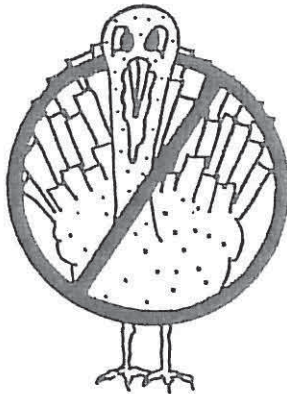
Cultural Facilities Development. The following is another flock that flew into the budget without following proper budget procedures:

• Renovation of Manuel Artime Center (Dade)	\$125,000
• Black Heritage Museum (Dade)	\$50,000
• Broward Art Guild (Broward)	\$100,000
• Bay of Pigs Museum (Dade)	\$50,000
• Central Florida Society for Afro-American (Orange)	\$50,000
• Historic Cultural Art Museum-Eatonville (Orange)	\$50,000
• Slough Museum Arts and Sciences (Volusia)	\$300,000
• Miami Youth Museum (Dade)	\$60,000
• Miami Shores Theatre Improvements (Dade)	\$100,000
• Children's Museum of Tampa (Hillsborough)	\$100,000
• Major Theatre (Dade)	\$20,000

The losers in this line item are those which followed proper funding request procedures, yet were left out of the final budget:

• Naval Aviation Museum Foundation (Escambia)	\$150,000
• Largo Amphitheatre Construction (Pinellas)	\$350,000
• Latin Quarter Cultural Center of Miami (Dade)	\$175,000

In 1988, the Florida Legislature established statutory guidelines for the Cultural Facilities Program, s. 265.701, Florida Statutes, requiring the Florida Arts Council to submit to the Secretary of State a prioritized list of projects with recommended funding levels. The Legislature should abide by this statute which would eliminate the above mentioned \$1,005,000 worth of turkeys and would allow funding of the three programs that were properly scrutinized and approved, yet were denied.



"While not all public officials like what we do, by golly, they respect us. While our staff is professional and not sensational or arrogant, they are tough, dedicated and persistent."

J.E. Davis

Florida TaxWatch Chairman Emeritus and Founder

When in doubt, go with the CLOUT!

More and more, citizens who are concerned about the way in which government spends their hard earned tax dollars are feeling powerless to change the system. They see the need for more and better roads, schools, prisons and other social services, yet they see no results. The recent one-cent increase in the sales tax has not improved state service delivery, yet the problems persist.

What is the answer? More taxes? Maybe, but only if the result of more revenue is more service from the state.

Florida TaxWatch makes the business of running state government it's business. How our money is spent is everyone's business. Our citizens have a right to influence its expenditure.

Florida TaxWatch is dedicated to:

- Prompting cost saving improvements in Florida government;
- Providing timely information and meaningful citizen input in the complex budgetary process;
- Maintaining and enhancing credibility with responsible public officials, the news media and Florida citizens through careful, objective and well-documented research publications.

You could sit on the sidelines -- a spectator who watches as others decide the future of your tax dollars and your lifestyle. Or, you can join an organization that has the CLOUT to change the system in favor of the taxpayer. Florida TaxWatch is that organization.

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