Orme's committee seeks additional state revenue

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A St. Anthony rancher who many say looks like famous actor Yul Brynner is one of the key legislators seeking to squeeze out dollars to meet the state revenue.

After 67 days, the Legislature still hasn't come up with a solution, although there are many leaders who say they are close.

Orme is chairman of a select budget subcommittee which has been assigned the tough task of finding enough extra state income to fit in with a state budget of about $440 million.

Rep. Rich Orme

"We can't seem to get a consensus," said the soft-speaking Fremont legislator. "We are sort of waiting to get the bottom line figures on appropriation. It seems to be shaping up to the $440 million which I mentioned at the start."

Orme said his committee is scanning a number of different options to be incorporated in an omnibus bill.

Some of the best tax brains in the Legislature make up this committee which he chairs. They include Reps. Steve Antone, R-Rupert, chairman of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee; Don Loveland, R-Rupert, who was a member of the State Tax Commission several years before retiring last year; J. C. Chadband, R-Idaho Falls, longtime businessman, and Harold Reid, D-Craigmont, extensive rancher.

Orme said the initiative passed by only 2 percent margin in his county but apparently many of the people did not know of its impact against farmers and school districts.