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Let's hear real budget fixes for California

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On Tuesday more than a dozen older and disabled adults, many in wheelchairs and all participants of Eskaton's Adult Day Health Center were trotted out to the State Capitol to make a "personal appeal to Legislators and the Governor not to eliminate funding for the state's Adult Day Health Care."

Aside from the the shameful nature of putting seniors on display, Eskaton does have a point that if the budget for ADHC is eliminated no one is going to get better.

At the same time, Assemblyman Jim Nielsen, in responding to Gov. Jerry Brown's State of the State address Monday night, stated that the speech was "long on rhetoric but contained few specifics. I would have liked to have heard more about his plans for creating jobs or reforming our budget process or reforming our pension system, but sadly, this was not included.

Nielsen and Eskaton are missing the point, focusing on theatrics rather than reality.

Obviously, it's not the governor's role to create jobs, so focusing on that is a ruse. As for reforming the budget process, that is being done. As for reforming the pension system, that should be reviewed.

Now, what we want to hear from Nielsen is what specifically he would do to help balance the budget?

Since he wants to hear more on reforming the pension system, would Nielsen agree that one reason the state is so far out of budget balance is because of the prison system, which needs significant reform? And what would he do to reform it?

Will Nielsen agree to cut state law enforcement money? Will Nielsen vote to cut redevelopment money going to cities and counties?

Would Nielsen agree to promote legislation to make the Legislature a part-time body as a means of saving money?

For Eskaton, Nielsen and others: It's time to get specific if you want to either cut or save programs.

Stop the demonstrations and the rhetoric. We want to see solid ideas.