

HOME NEWS TRIBUNE

LETTERS

[Get e-mail newsletters](#)

Is it Christmas already?

Home News Tribune Online 06/29/07

STORYCHAT: [Post a comment.](#) [View latest comments.](#)

It looks like it's Christmas in July! In Gov. Jon S. Corzine's world, it's business as usual.

Remarkably, we needed more than 26 tax increases this year to balance the state budget. With the \$6.02 billion in new revenue, we have paid ourselves with our own money for our own Homestead Rebate. Taxpayers are paying approximately 36.1 percent more in property taxes than they did just five years ago.

The citizens of New Jersey were asked to tighten their seat belts and dig deeper into their pockets. Until the voters realize the ride isn't over, we all need to keep our seat belts on. We are still going 91 mph.

We, as a state, have no money and yet we still have found money to fund \$100,000 for the Edison Symphony Orchestra, almost its entire budget.

If times are so tough, why not spread the grants around evenly, instead of throwing it all into one pot? David Miller, executive director of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, was quoted as saying: "It's completely the prerogative of the Legislature to decide how it wants to support the arts." Is Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes III, who arranged the Edison symphony grant, the whole Legislature? What if we just do away with the grants process? Why bother, if it is just going to be circumvented?

It didn't take Barnes very long to find his way to the empty stall at the trough. Anything left in the pork barrel belongs to all the taxpayers, not just for a selected few.

Joseph Sinagra

HELMETTA

[Subscribe Now! to the Home News Tribune. It's EZ.](#)