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“Big 5” Negotiations Suffer a Setback

A meeting of the Governor and legislative leaders blew up today with Senate Republican Leader Dave Cogdill (R-Fresno) announcing to the press, "The Big 5 process has been irreparably compromised as a result of comments in the press over the last couple of days, and it's pretty difficult to negotiate in good faith in that situation." According to a report in the *Sacramento Bee*, today, December 11, 2008, the Senate Republican leader expressed frustration at comments made by the Governor about the stance legislative republicans have taken in the Budget negotiations and leaks from these meetings. Cogdill suggested that negotiations may be more successful if they excluded the Governor. This comes on the heels of the announcement by the Governor's office that plummeting revenues will raise the state's Budget deficit as high as \$41.8 billion through 2009-10.

-Robert Miyashiro

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