

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Well, Senator Brashear, I'd like to ask you a couple of questions if I may do so, sir.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Brashear,...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator.... Go ahead.

SENATOR CROSBY: ..will you respond?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Madam Chairman.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Brashear, I've been a part of the appropriations process and I know...and I understand it and I know that you've been a part of it and you understand it. It's a process that goes on and on and on, and I mean that that, you know, you go through the first round and in many cases, you know, if you have five hands it goes into the budget, but in most cases if you want somebody to talk about it you don't put it in the budget and then you go back to it again after the hearings and you preliminarily decide, you know, what you're going to do, but then issues have a way of coming back again. And finally at the end when you look at all the numbers, you have to make some final decisions. So it is possible, is it not, that some things can get a little confusing at times as to what's put in and what's not?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: It is possible and they do.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. Senator Brashear, originally when the committee talked about this issue, the committee put in the dollars, okay. In your memory, why did the committee do that for the community colleges?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: The concept of adding back dollars as to all of these educational entities was based on parity and fairness.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Would it be fair to say that some members of the body actually thought at the end of the process in appropriations that these dollars were actually in the budget?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: It's fair to say that one or more of us did.