

Whitney, to cure the problem. I don't think it's circumventing the Budget process at all. Just because the bill has a little money attached to it doesn't mean that it should always go through the Budget Committee because sometimes.. sometimes you turn down appropriations when they're sorely needed. I can remember when I appeared with the patrolmen before the Budget Committee and asked that you increased their drug staff. You turned it down. Senator Schmit got it on the floor. Therefore, I don't think you have any bases for your argument that everything that has to do with money should go before the Budget Committee.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Carpenter, then Syas, Whitney, Keyes.

SENATOR CARPENTER: This body has adopted a procedure which has been in affect for some time and when we make authorization which I presume with some knowledge of the committee they have followed with "A" bills and I think it would be a sad day in this Legislature if we referred everything to the Budget Committee before we could have any knowledge of what's going on. I look at the Budget Committee and I don't see any more knowledge there collectively than this Legislature. So, we have to make these determinations. Now, if you are shocked at this one, I am sure you are going to be confronted pretty soon with the request for an appropriation of a million dollars which is not even going near the Appropriations Committee. It is in the area of alcoholics. The Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member, has been studying these problems for not for days or weeks, but for years and we don't believe there is anybody in this body who are any more knowledgeable collectively than we are and understand the problem anymore than we understand it. And this committee has stopped dragging its feet. We're putting the problem in your lap. We're sick and tired of studying and not doing anything about it. Now, in the field of drugs, if it hadn't been for Senator Schmit, if it hadn't of been for an "A" bill, we probably wouldn't have got any money for undercover work, because it would be my opinion that if the Budget Committee would not have approved that kind of an appropriation. I don't know. We have found after things have been in affect that it really isn't using too much money because it is sort of a revolving fund. You obtain fees from the activity. You ought to know by now that the thing that had been put into affect by Senator Schmit basically and agreed to by this body is now beginning to function and flush these things out. We know by looking at the papers in Omaha and Lincoln and every other town in this state that by the use of undercover men and by the increase of those on the Highway Patrol to the point they now exist we're getting some results. Now, this drug problem will not go away because somebody wants to study or continue to have somebody else review what this body ultimately has to do. Now if you want to send everything to the Budget Committee, let's just cut all these "A" bills out. Now, I've set in the Budget Committee last year, not this year. They couldn't agree on anything collectively. I sat there. They wouldn't even take the recommendation of their staff and I think in many cases the Budget Committee, at least individually in some cases, is nothing but a roadblock in order to keep this body from functioning in the area of need that we know or can say exists. But bringing it into focus, if you want to eliminate "A" bills, just send everything to the Budget Committee and they're concerned with one thing, not spending any money except in the area in which they would like to spend it. Now, I believe in the area of spending money that this body should spend whenever you can get 25 votes all the money they want to. This is the body that makes the determination and not the Budget Committee. They make a recommendation. I want to participate and have an opportunity to do outside trying to amend the Budget and then let me caution you again. This is only my opinion, not based upon what any body has told me, that we are eventually, probably, going to have some problem with the Budget bill itself because we are apparently on the