

pressure on medicaid I am sure is going to be greater and the state's needs on construction are going to be as great if not greater, and they are certainly going to be more expensive, and the school districts, the value purchasing power of their state aid has diminished all the more and then are we going to decide then to try and stay within 7% and if we decide to do that next year the only way we will be able to do it is to further defer increases in aid, further defer capital construction, further defer employees salary increases, and at some point as long as inflation stays higher than 7%, it will catch up with us. Now I think, I don't want to put words in Senator Warner's mouth, but I think what he is trying to ask is, do you expect us to stay within 7% over the long term. If so, he is offering ways to do that, or if not, then we should undertake some of these obligations. The other..last week I was watching educational television and there was an interview with Senator Maurice Kremer and they posed to Senator Kremer that very question. Can the state stay within 7%? And I believe Senator Kremer said, if I heard him correctly, that as long as inflation is at the rate it is, he does not believe it is going to be possible to do that and I think that is the situation the state is in and that is the situation the county is in. I don't think that it is any admission that we have failed because the inflation rate is really not in our control. Now what seemed possible maybe last August with the 7% bill seems less and less possible here in May. That isn't a failure on our part. I think we must recognize the economic situation, admit that limitations are something that we should watch and try and meet, but in this case, whether you are talking about county government or state government, 7% is not feasible. If we adopt the Warner amendment, as Senator Cope rightly said, these projects will be before us next year. Senator Warner admits they are legitimate projects. Senator Dworak says they are legitimate projects. The Appropriations Committee believes they are legitimate projects. I think we might as well tackle them now because we have other things we must meet next year. I would oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes, you are next.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Senator Warner, Senator Warner, the 7% that we are talking about, now does that include the growth factor, too? It does, doesn't it? That is how we will arrive at a 7%. In other words if the growth factor happened to be ten or twelve which I believe it will be in the twelve, fourteen percent growth this year, we would have some extra money?