

May 12, 1981

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? Senator Warner you may close on your motion.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I have no quarrel with the order in which the bills are on. I'm not complaining and I'm not trying to stop the operation. I just happen to believe the concensus of this body is to have a total appropriation within the available receipts of the existing tax rates. When we are all done I think that is where we are going to end up. That means that we make priorities for what those expenditures are going to be. I happen to be on the side that I like to see the Legislature determine the priorities rather than the Executive. The route that we are going is that we merely will react to what the Chief Executive decides is not appropriate, that we are going to send all of them, virtually all of them over there. If that is the choice, fine. I always accept the choice when it is finally made, but what I really want to try and do is make the system work. To me, and we have gone through this argument before, since I have been here, but the system working means that the Legislature sets the priorities for funding. Funding of programs is how policy is implemented. Policy is the role of the legislative branch of government. I regret when we give that policy making away by obviously enacting substantial number of dollars of appropriations over and above what we all readily understand will not be the case when it is done. I still believe the legislature can make priorities. I still believe that we can control ourselves that we can work within the group to arrive at reasonable programs and stay within available receipts. The option that we are going does not allow the legislature to make those priorities. I feel strongly about it or else I would not have made the motion and I feel strongly because I feel the Legislature as an institution is the one that sets policy and I believe that the policy is represented by what we do in appropriations. The potential is for something where somewhere I suspect between 30 and 35 million dollars if all of these bills are enacted. In total that will be vetoed. If I was Governor I would want us to do just exactly what we are doing. Send them all over there within the same time frame because if he can make a massive veto of that dollar amount obviously they are going to be sustained in that dollar amount. It is the same concept that the Reagan economic plan did not go unnoticed by me that numerous congressmen stood up and said we will support the plan in total for reductions because to do it on an itemized basis is extremely difficult. I understand what I am suggesting is extremely difficult to pick out the priorities but I still think the Legislature has that priority setting responsibility and I