

any kind of amendment to this bill or any appropriation measures whatsoever as we continue on through the session. First of all I'd like to say that what Senator Beutler is proposing is not an unworthy thing. It would be a good idea to have better hearing rooms. It would be a good idea to have better office facilities. The question isn't whether the idea is a worthy idea or an unworthy idea, the question is how does it stack up with the priorities that we have to choose from. As your Appropriations Committee, in trying to decide how to spend \$846 million in general funds, we were looking at requests for expenditures of somewhere close to \$920 million worth of general funds, somewhere close to \$70 million more than we had to spend. Obviously, when you have \$70 million worth of requests that you can't fund some things are not going to be appropriated. It was our duty, and I think that we worked very hard to fulfill that duty, to try to come up with which items were the most important, which items were necessary versus other items, albeit them worthy were not as necessary. We as a committee decided that the \$400,000 or the \$600,000 or the \$700,000 expenditure of funds was not as worthy as some other programs and as Senator Warner pointed out, we are going to be looking at other program cuts if we add this to our expenditure. One other thing I need to point out to you is that the Legislative Council is the only agency, to my knowledge, the only agency out of 90 or out of 90 numbered agencies, the only agency that fully funds their salary limitation. Now a brief explanation, if you have 50 people on your salary in your agency, you total those salaries together and you come up with a salary limitation. That's very simplified, but that's what you come up with. Now as a Legislature you know all of us have at least two aides that we are allowed during the full year, at least two, some of us three, some of us four, but at least two. Now how this appropriation level gets up so high is that we as a council are funded for a full year, full-time employment of all of those aides. Well the fact of the matter is we do not employ the maximum number of aides we are allowed for a full year round appropriation. Because of that situation we have lapsed funds that go back and they have historically been reappropriated year to year to year. Now the Legislative Council is the only agency that does that. If you take another agency that has possibly 200 or 300 people, let's say they have 300 people on their payroll. But because of attrition, because of turnover in jobs from year to year to year, they probably only have a funding level of maybe 275.